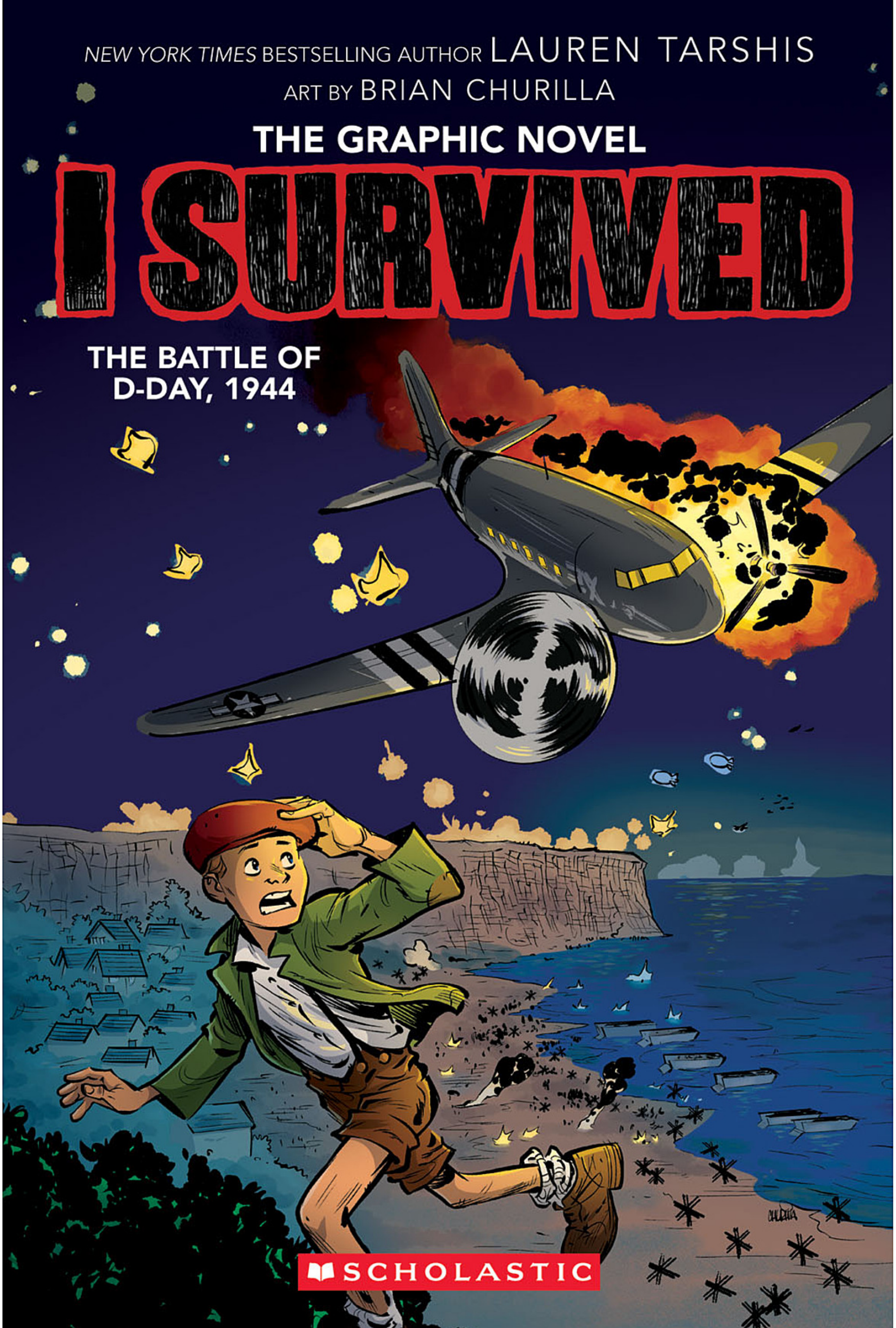
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR LAUREN TARSHIS

ART BY BRIAN CHURILLA

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

I SURVIVED

THE BATTLE OF D-DAY, 1944



SCHOLASTIC

I SURVIVED

THE BATTLE OF D-DAY, 1944

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ED RAINES

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JUNE 6, 1944
The cliffs above
Omaha Beach

Normandy, France

BOOM

KA-BOOM

BOOM

KRAKA-
BOOM

BOOM BOOM

BOOM
KABOOM
THE AIR SMELLS LIKE BURNING RUBBER.

IT'S COMING RIGHT FOR ME!

NO MATTER WHERE I RUN, THE DYING PLANE FOLLOWS.

IT WANTS ME TO DIE TOO.

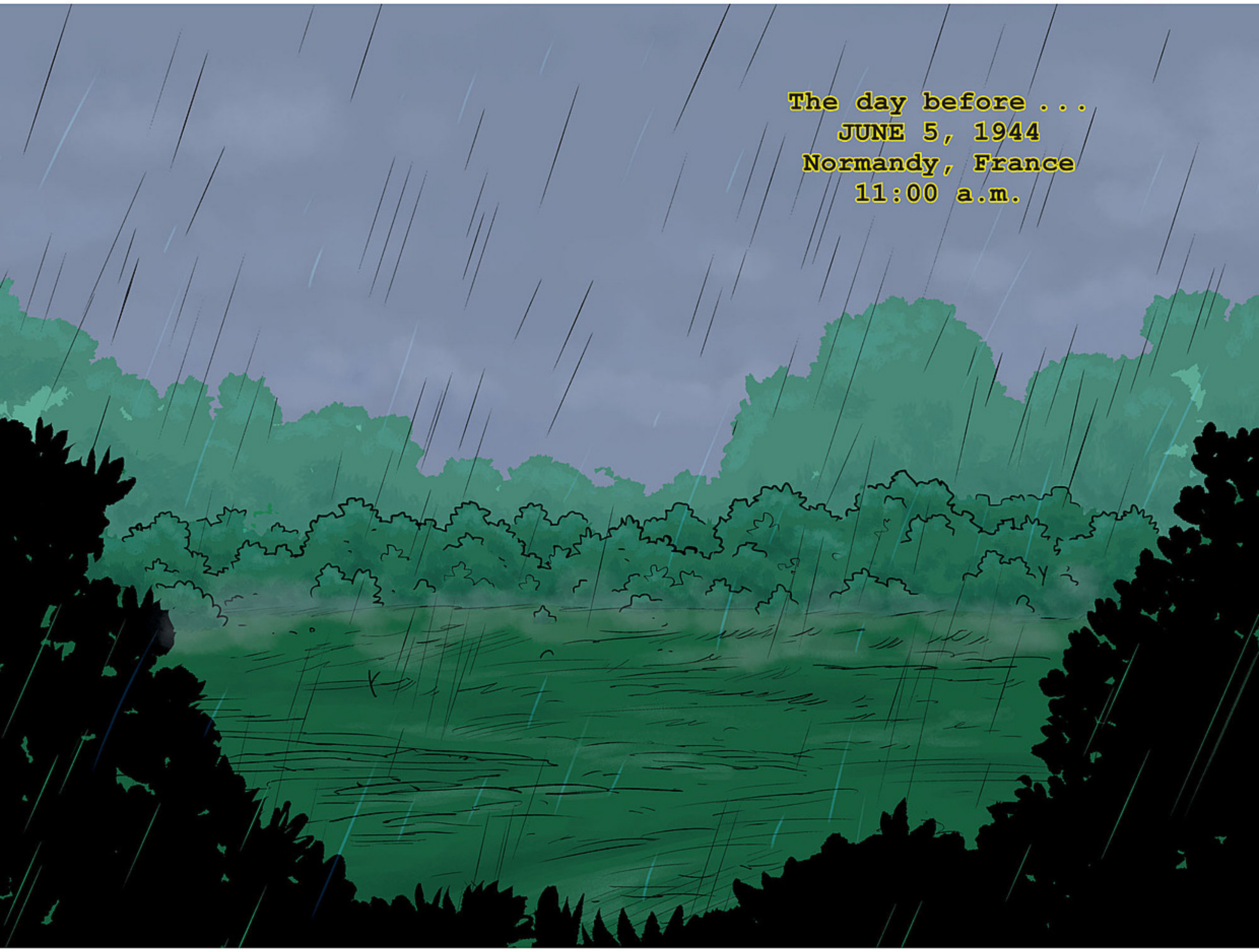
WHACK

MY SKULL EXPLODES WITH PAIN.

THE ALLIES ARE FINALLY HERE. FOR FOUR LONG YEARS, I'VE PRAYED FOR THIS DAY.

BUT NOW—

—WILL IT BE MY LAST?


The day before . . .
JUNE 5, 1944
Normandy, France
11:00 a.m.

I SURVIVED

THE BATTLE OF D-DAY, 1944

BASED ON THE NOVEL IN THE *NEW YORK TIMES*
BESTSELLING SERIES BY LAUREN TARSHIS

ADAPTED BY GEORGIA BALL
WITH ART BY BRIAN CHURILLA
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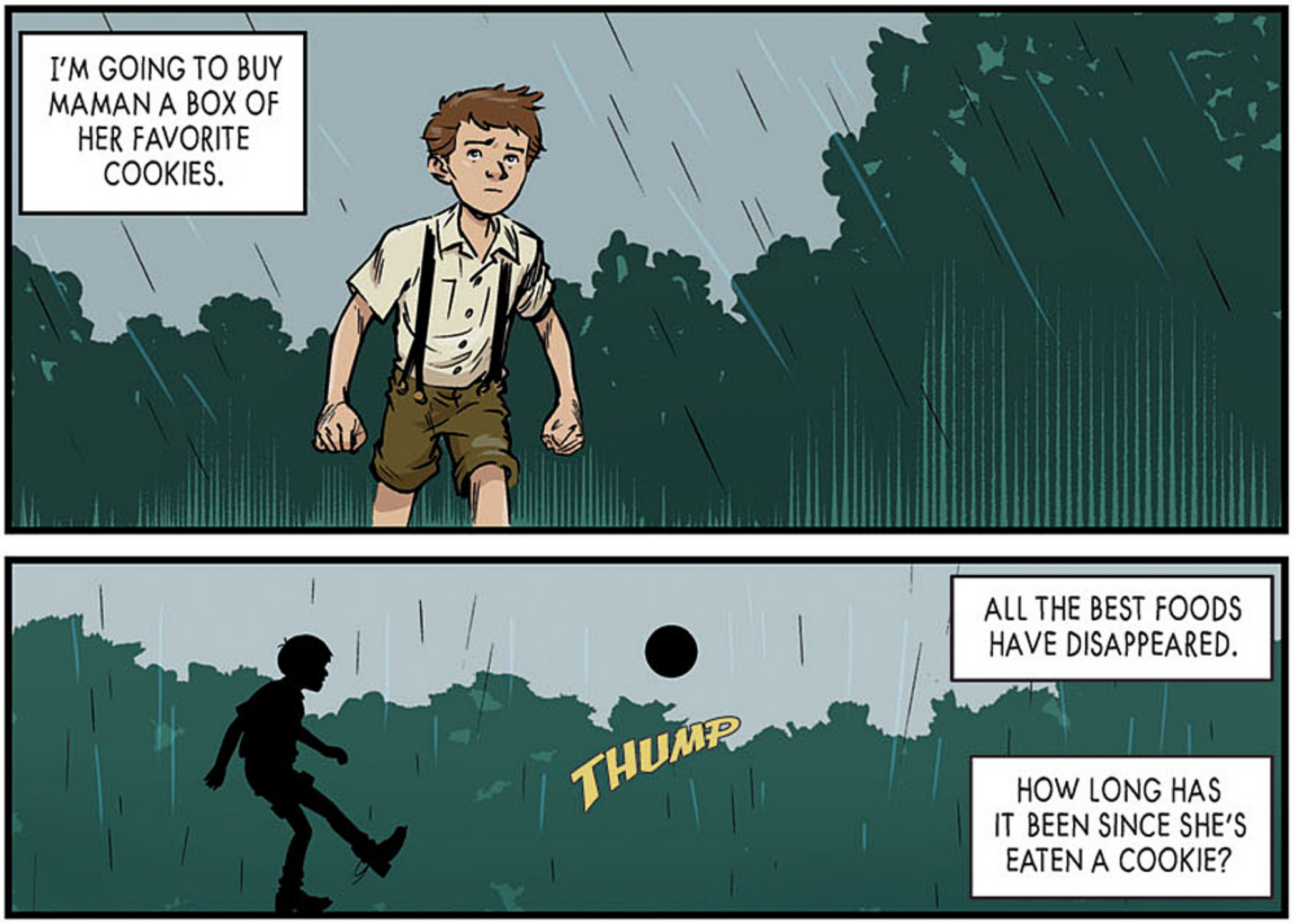
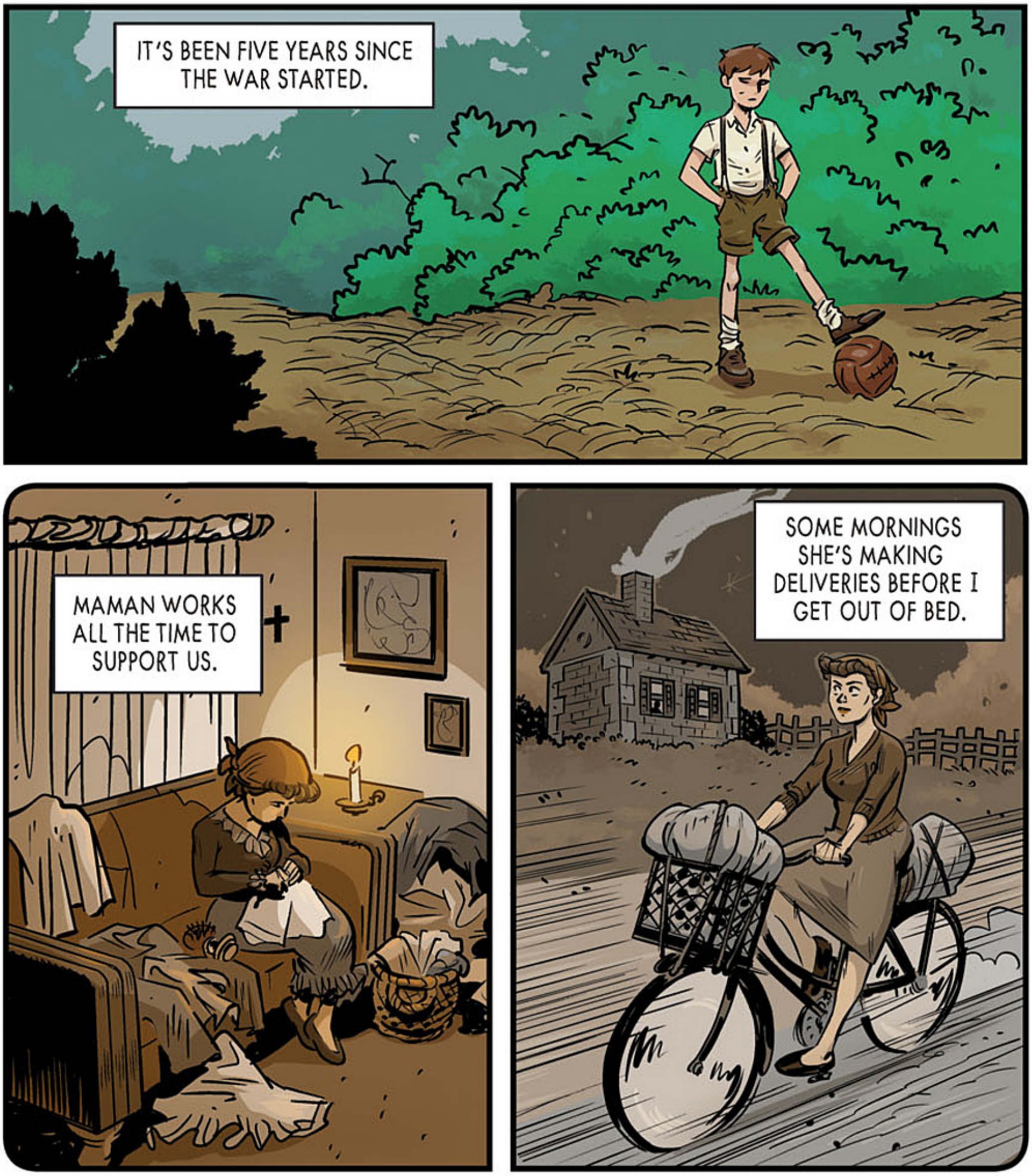
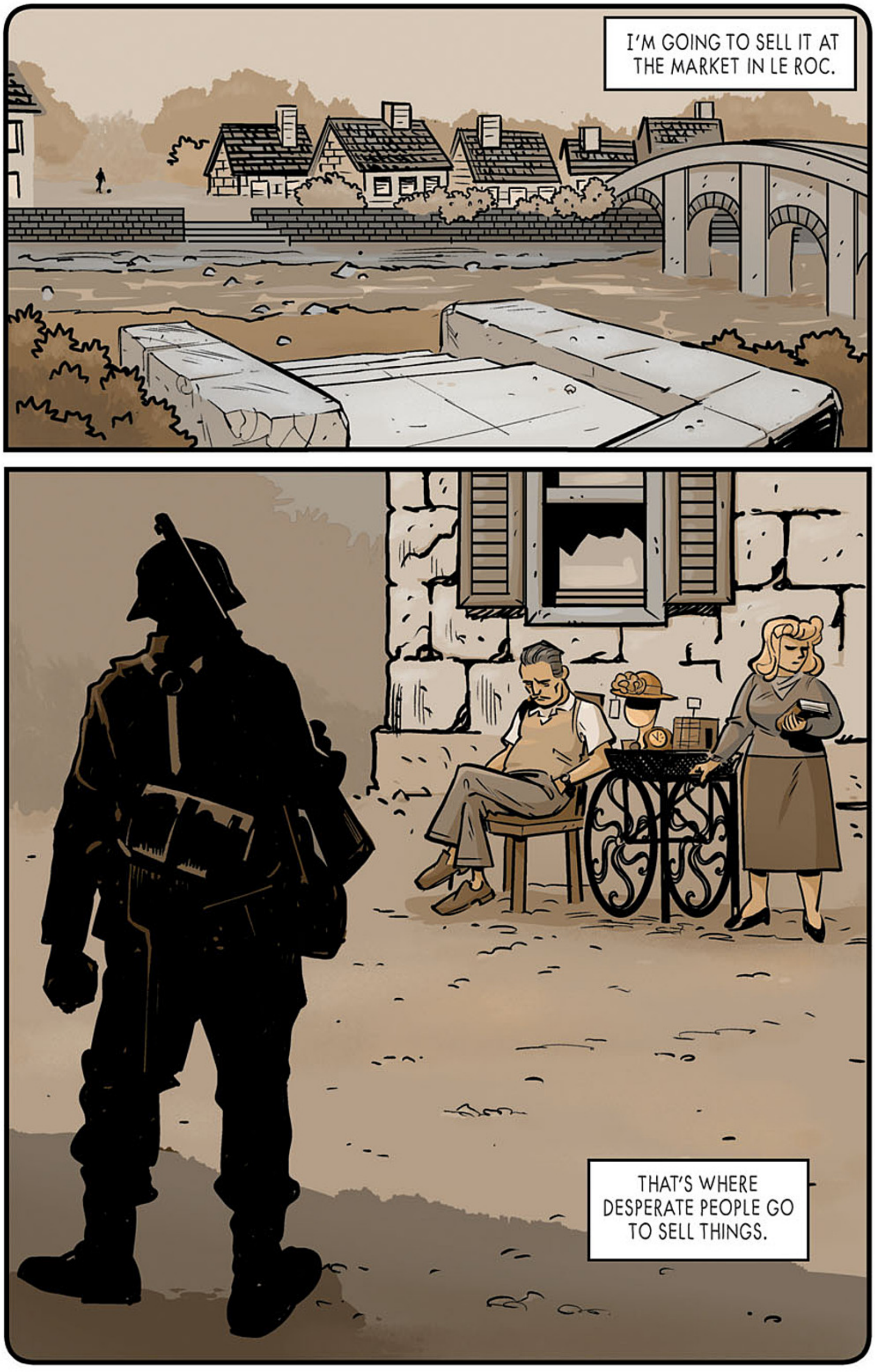
graphix
AN IMPRINT OF
SCHOLASTIC

THIS IS GOING TO BE A GOOD DAY.
TODAY IS MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY.
WHUMP


I'M GOING TO BUY MAMAN A BOX OF HER FAVORITE COOKIES.
THUMP
ALL THE BEST FOODS HAVE DISAPPEARED.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE SHE'S EATEN A COOKIE?
I REMEMBER CAKES . . .
CREPES . . .
CHOCOLATE ÉCLAIRS . . .
NOW MY MOTHER . . .
MAMAN . . .
HAS TO MAKE HER COFFEE OUT OF GROUND ACORNS AND HOT WATER.


IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE THE WAR STARTED.
MAMAN WORKS ALL THE TIME TO SUPPORT US.
SOME MORNINGS SHE'S MAKING DELIVERIES BEFORE I GET OUT OF BED.
MAKING MAMAN HAPPY IS WORTH ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.
EVEN MY SOCCER BALL.

MY PARENTS GAVE ME THIS BALL FOR MY SEVENTH BIRTHDAY.
I SHOWED IT TO MY BEST FRIEND, GERARD, RIGHT AWAY.
PAUL . . . A REAL LEATHER SOCCER BALL!
NOW WE'RE GOING TO THE WORLD CUP FOR SURE.
I HATE TO SEE IT BUTCHERED . . .

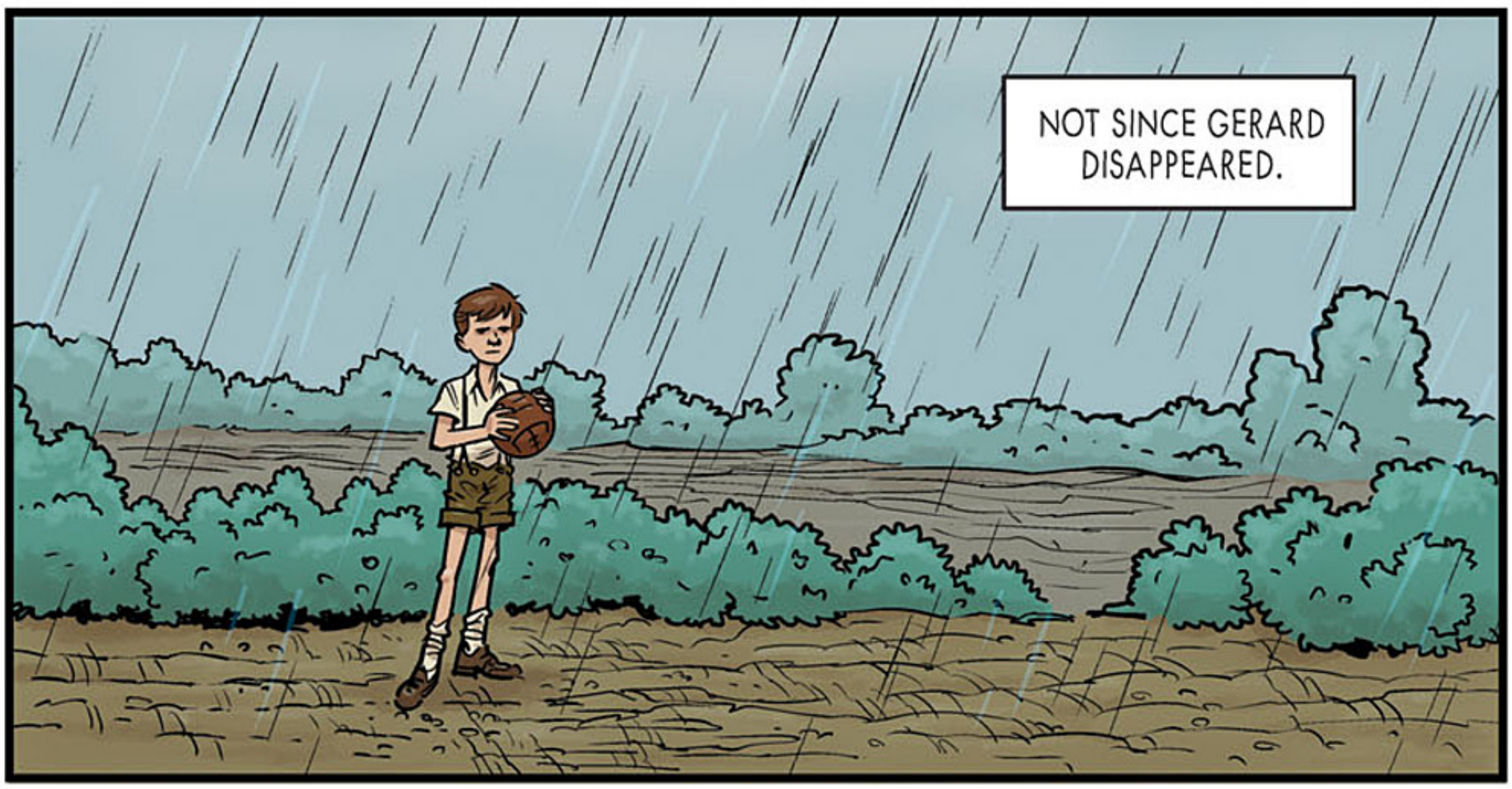

I'M GOING TO SELL IT AT THE MARKET IN LE ROC.
THAT'S WHERE DESPERATE PEOPLE GO TO SELL THINGS.

BUT LEATHER IS HARD TO FIND.

SOMEONE COULD CUT IT UP FOR SHOES OR GLOVES.

BESIDES, I HAVEN'T TOUCHED THE BALL IN MONTHS.

RACE YOU!


NOT SINCE GERARD DISAPPEARED.

THE NAZIS TOOK GERARD AND HIS FAMILY AWAY.

ONE COLD NIGHT IN MARCH, THE NAZIS ARRESTED EVERY JEWISH PERSON IN TOWN.

NOBODY KNOWS WHERE THEY TOOK THEM . . .

BUT THERE ARE RUMORS.

I PRAY THEY AREN'T TRUE.

RUMORS ABOUT LOCKED TRAIN CARS . . .

CHILDREN TORN AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS . . .

FIFA FFFA

COUPE DU MONDE

AND HUGE PRISONS WHERE PEOPLE STARVE TO DEATH.

NO!

I'M NOT GOING TO THINK ABOUT THE NAZIS TODAY.

TODAY IS MAMAN'S BIRTHDAY.
TODAY WILL BE A GOOD DAY.

A short while later...

I'M NOT TAKING THAT!

NOBODY WANTS ONE OF THOSE.

BORIS IS THE LAST LEATHERWORKER IN TOWN.

BUT, *MONSIEUR*, SIR...

IT'S GOOD LEATHER!

DON'T WANT IT.

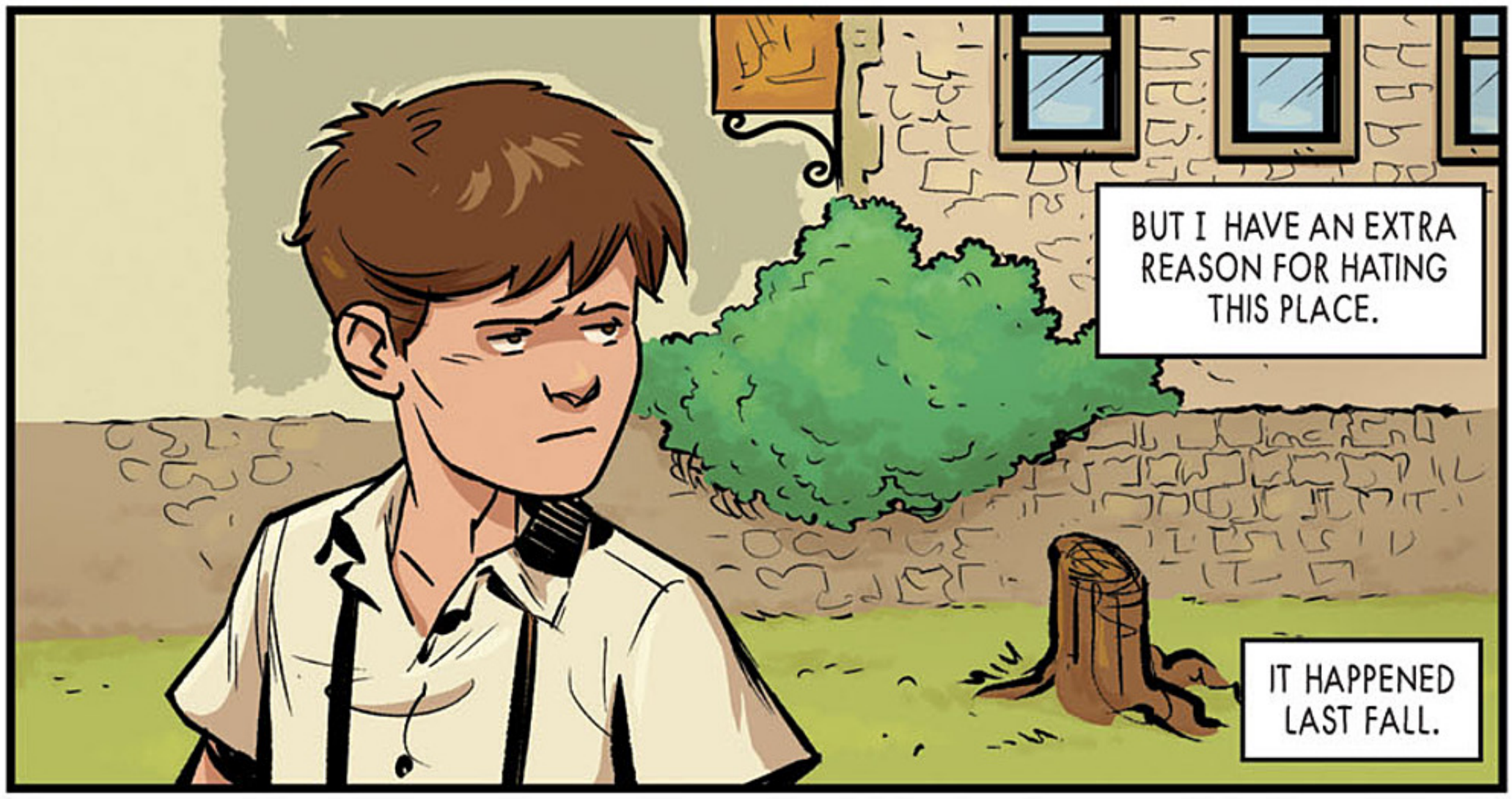
SIGH!

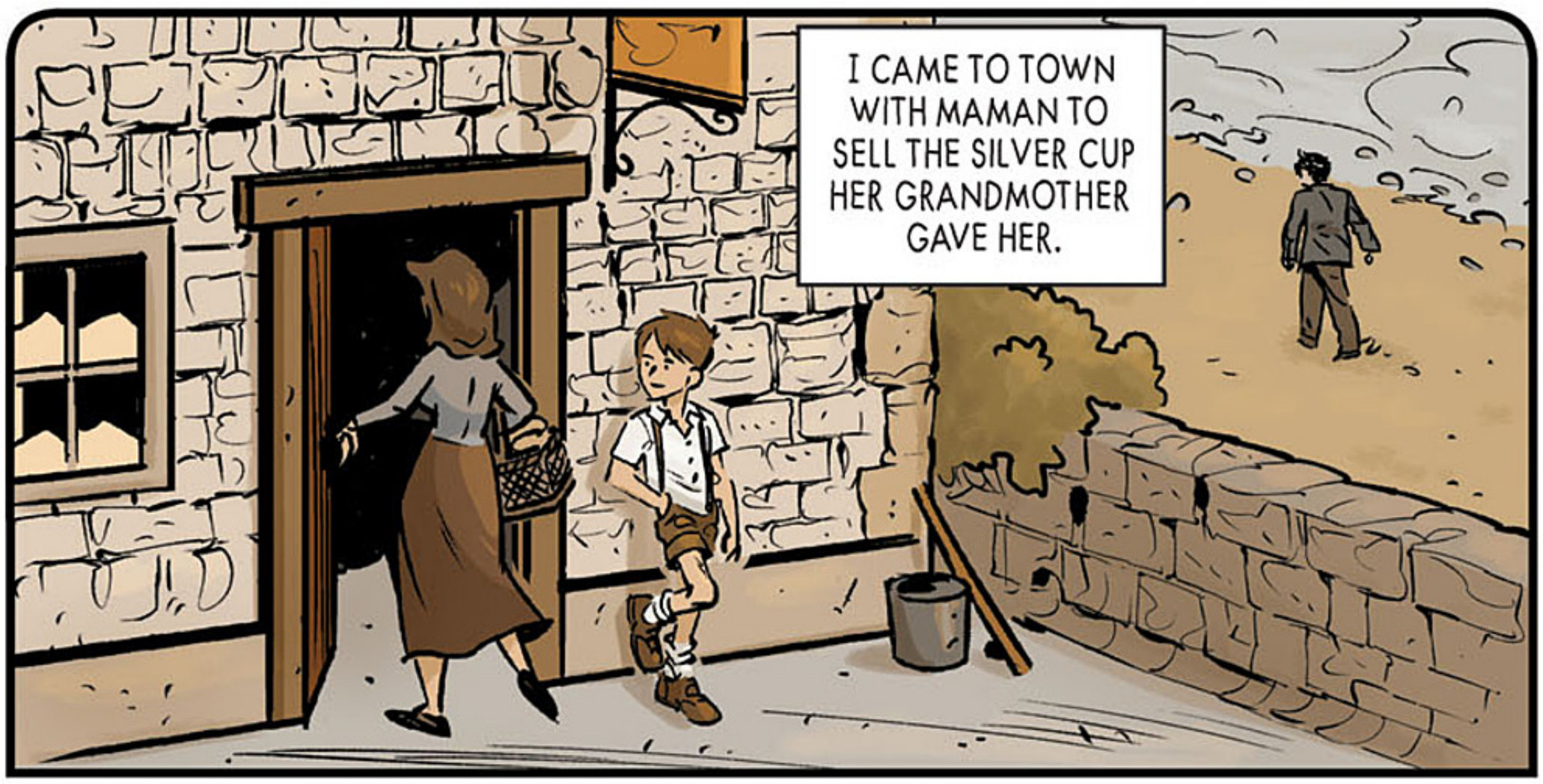
THIS PARK USED TO BE FILLED WITH FLOWERS.

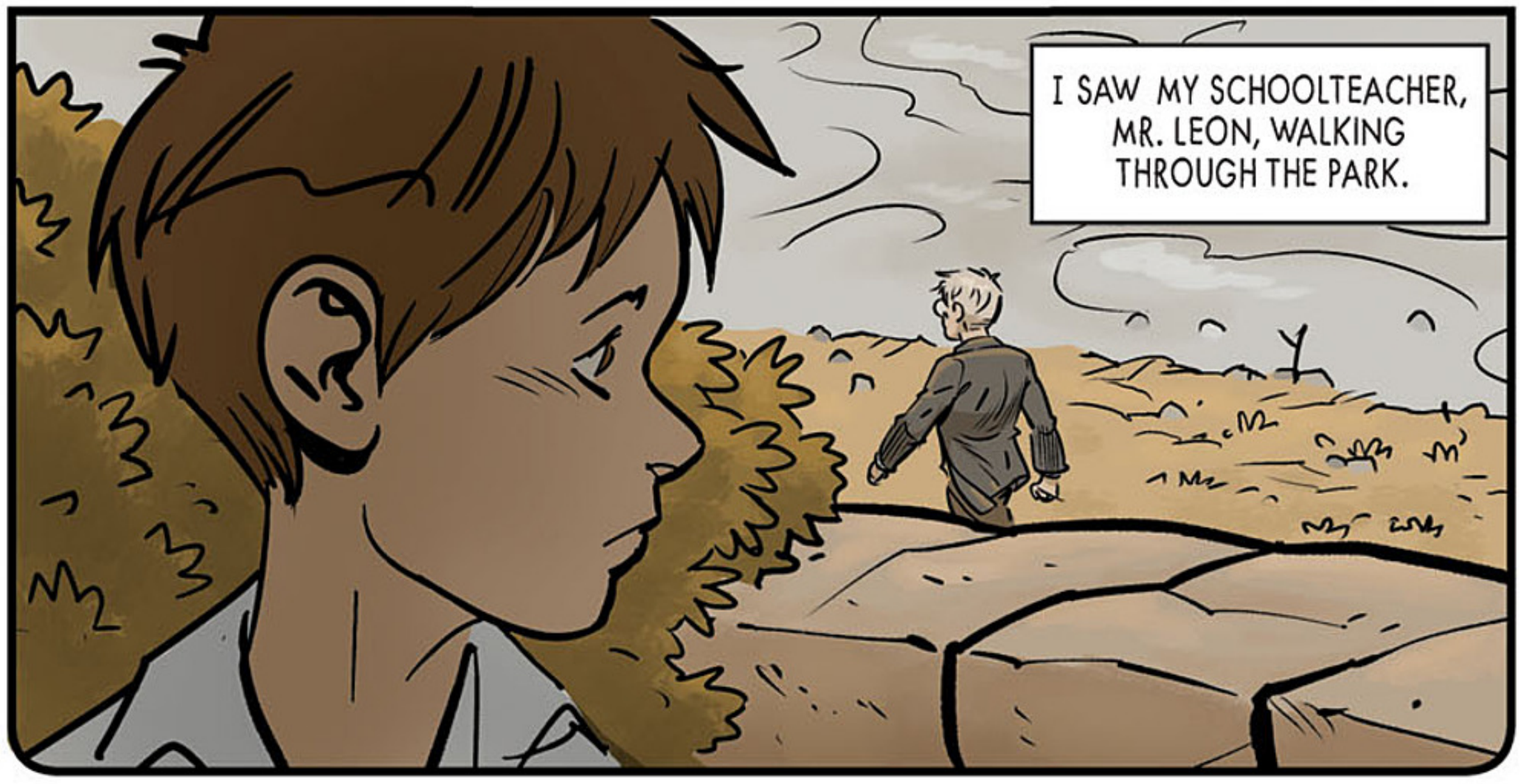
THE NAZIS CHOPPED DOWN ALL THE TREES AND SENT THE WOOD TO GERMANY.

EVEN THE DUCKS ARE GONE.

HUNGRY PEOPLE ATE THEM—IF THEY COULD CATCH THEM.


BUT I HAVE AN EXTRA REASON FOR HATING THIS PLACE.
IT HAPPENED LAST FALL.


I CAME TO TOWN WITH MAMAN TO SELL THE SILVER CUP HER GRANDMOTHER GAVE HER.


I SAW MY SCHOOLTEACHER, MR. LEON, WALKING THROUGH THE PARK.

WE LOVED MR. LEON.

HE NEVER YELLED AT US.

HE TOLD THE BEST STORIES.

IS IT TRUE THERE'S STILL A DRAGON IN CASTLE LE ROC?

YES, A HUGE, WINGED BEAST,

WITH A SNAKE'S HEAD AND FIERY BREATH!

ITS GLOWING EYES PEER THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE TOWER!

MR. LEON ALWAYS MADE US FEEL SAFE, NO MATTER WHAT WAS HAPPENING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.

I WAS GOING TO CALL OUT TO HIM WHEN . . .

HALT!

KRA-KOW

SPLASH

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GONE.

THE NAZIS CLOSED THE SCHOOL AFTER THAT.

MAMAN! THE NAZIS SAY MR. LEON WAS A TRAITOR . . . A SPY!

NO! HE WAS A HERO.

THEY MURDERED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS IN A SECRET GROUP CALLED THE RESISTANCE!

THE RESISTANCE! MR. LEON?

THE RESISTANCE IS LIKE AN ARMY, BUT WITH PEOPLE LIKE TEACHERS AND WRITERS AND FARMERS . . .

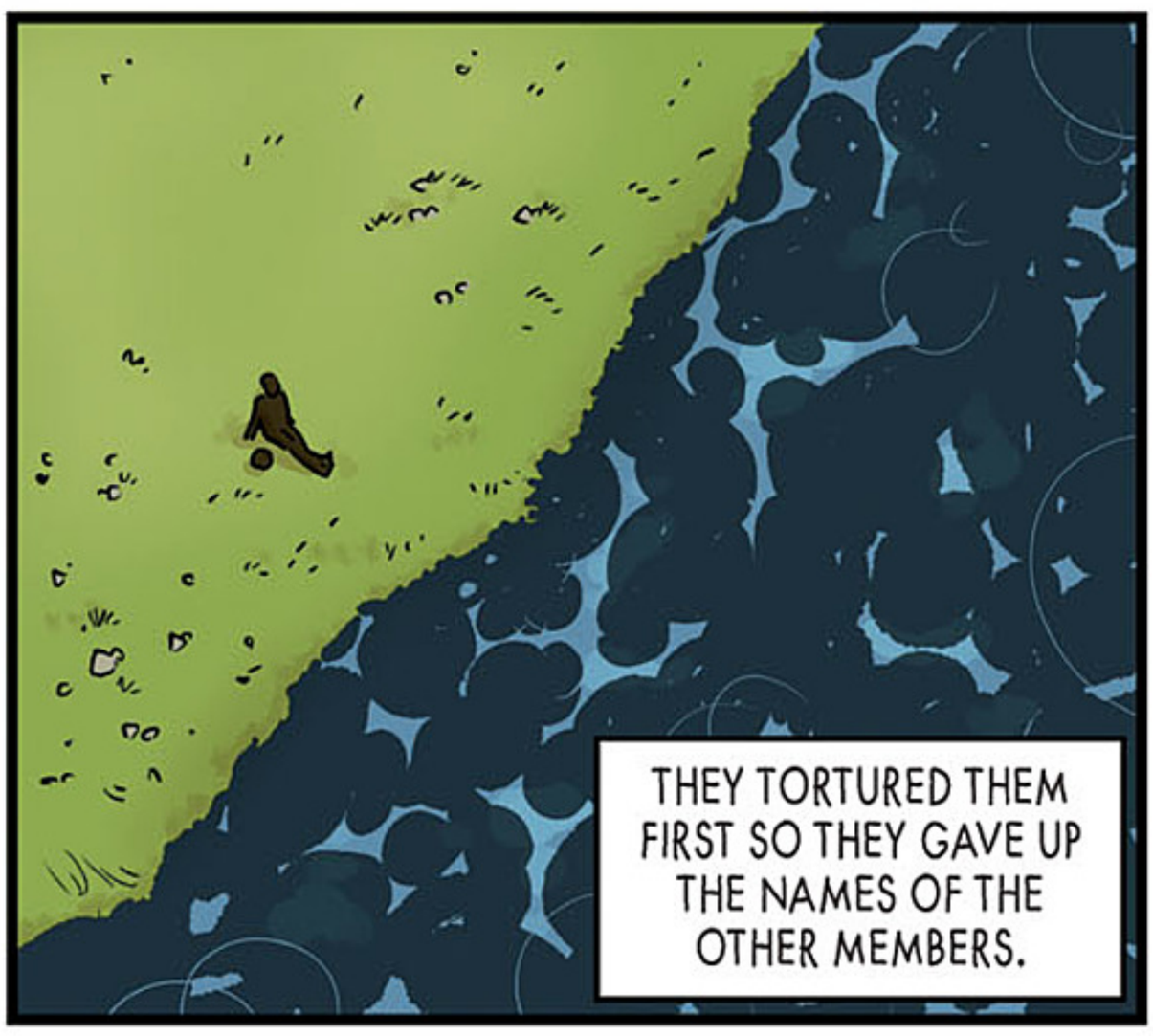
ANYONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO TRY TO STOP THE NAZIS.

THEY TRY TO BLOW UP NAZI TRAINS AND STEAL THEIR SECRETS FOR THE ALLIES—

—AMERICAN, CANADIAN, AND BRITISH ARMIES WORKING TOGETHER TO DEFEAT GERMANY.

AT LEAST . . . THEY *USED* TO.

I HEAR THE RESISTANCE HAS BEEN CRUSHED.
THE NAZIS HUNTED THEM ALL DOWN.
AND THEY DIDN'T JUST SHOOT THEM.


THEY TORTURED THEM FIRST SO THEY GAVE UP THE NAMES OF THE OTHER MEMBERS.

MR. LEON WAS LUCKY HE DIED QUICKLY.

MR. LEON RISKED HIS LIFE FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

SO SHOULDN'T I TRY A LITTLE HARDER TO GET A PRESENT FOR MAMAN?

I CAN'T GIVE UP SO EASILY!

PLOP

I TOLD YOU. NOBODY WANTS YOUR BALL.

TAKE IT HOME.

PLEASE, *MONSIEUR* . . .

IT'S MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY.

I NEED THE MONEY TO BUY HER A GIFT.

BORIS CHANGED HIS MIND!

CLINK

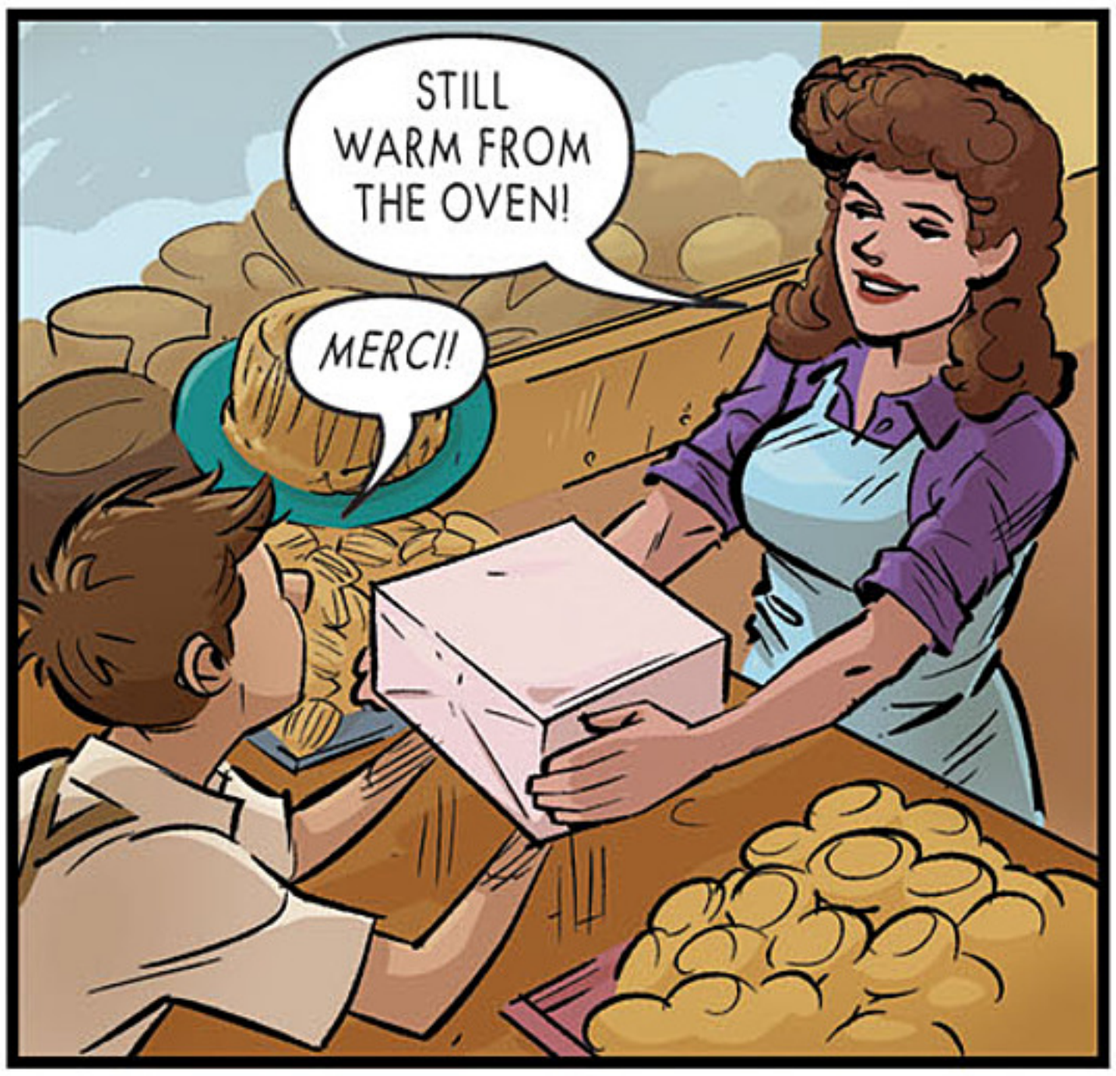
Boulangerie

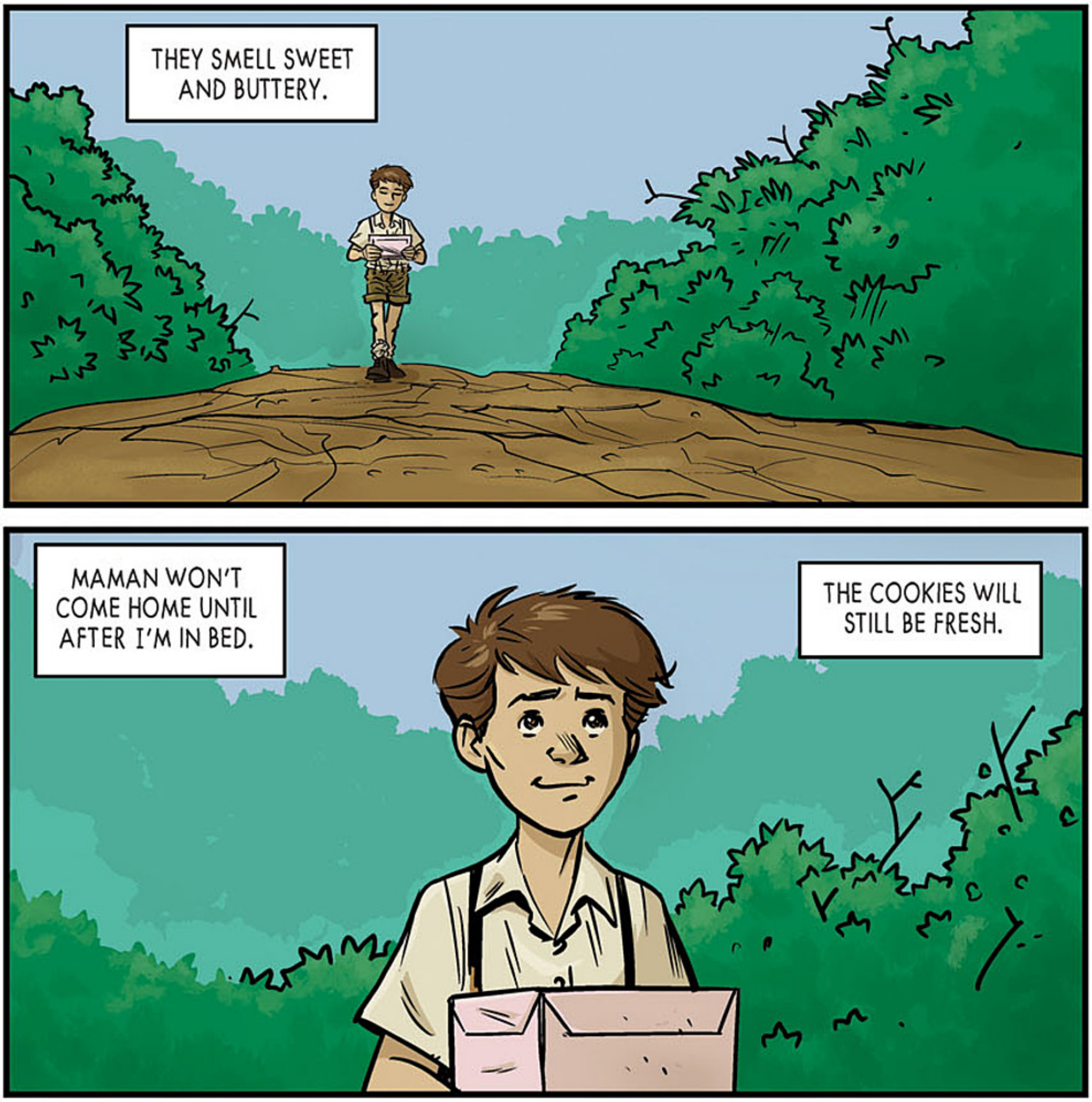
SLAP

PAUL!
BONJOUR, MARIE!

ONE DOZEN MADELEINES, PLEASE.

THEY'RE MY MOTHER'S FAVORITE!
MINE TOO.


STILL WARM FROM THE OVEN!
MERCI!


THEY SMELL SWEET AND BUTTERY.
MAMAN WON'T COME HOME UNTIL AFTER I'M IN BED.
THE COOKIES WILL STILL BE FRESH.
I CAN PICTURE HER FACE WHEN SHE BITES INTO THEM . . .
VRRRRRRRR

VRRRRROOOOOOOMMM

VRRRROOOOOMMM

THOSE NAZI SOLDIERS WOULD HAVE RUN ME DOWN AND LEFT ME FOR DEAD.

SOMEONE IS ABOUT TO BE ARRESTED.

OR SHOT.

THE MADELEINES!

I HATE THOSE SOLDIERS.

I WANT TO CHASE THEM DOWN, KNOCK THEM OFF THEIR BIKES . . .

RIP AWAY THEIR SWASTIKA FLAGS, AND STOMP ON THEM.

BUT I CAN'T.

ALL I CAN DO IS SIT HERE AND CRY OVER A PILE OF COOKIE CRUMBS.

PAPA TRIED TO FIGHT BACK.

LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

HE JOINED THE FRENCH ARMY RIGHT AFTER GERMANY INVADED FRANCE.

WITHIN SIX WEEKS, THE GERMANS KILLED THOUSANDS OF FRENCH SOLDIERS.

FRANCE SURRENDERED.

NOW THE NAZI FLAG FLIES OVER PARIS—

—AND MOST OF EUROPE.

PAPA IS IN A GERMAN PRISON CAMP.

WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM IN FOUR YEARS.

COO-ROO

GO AHEAD, EAT THE CRUMBS.

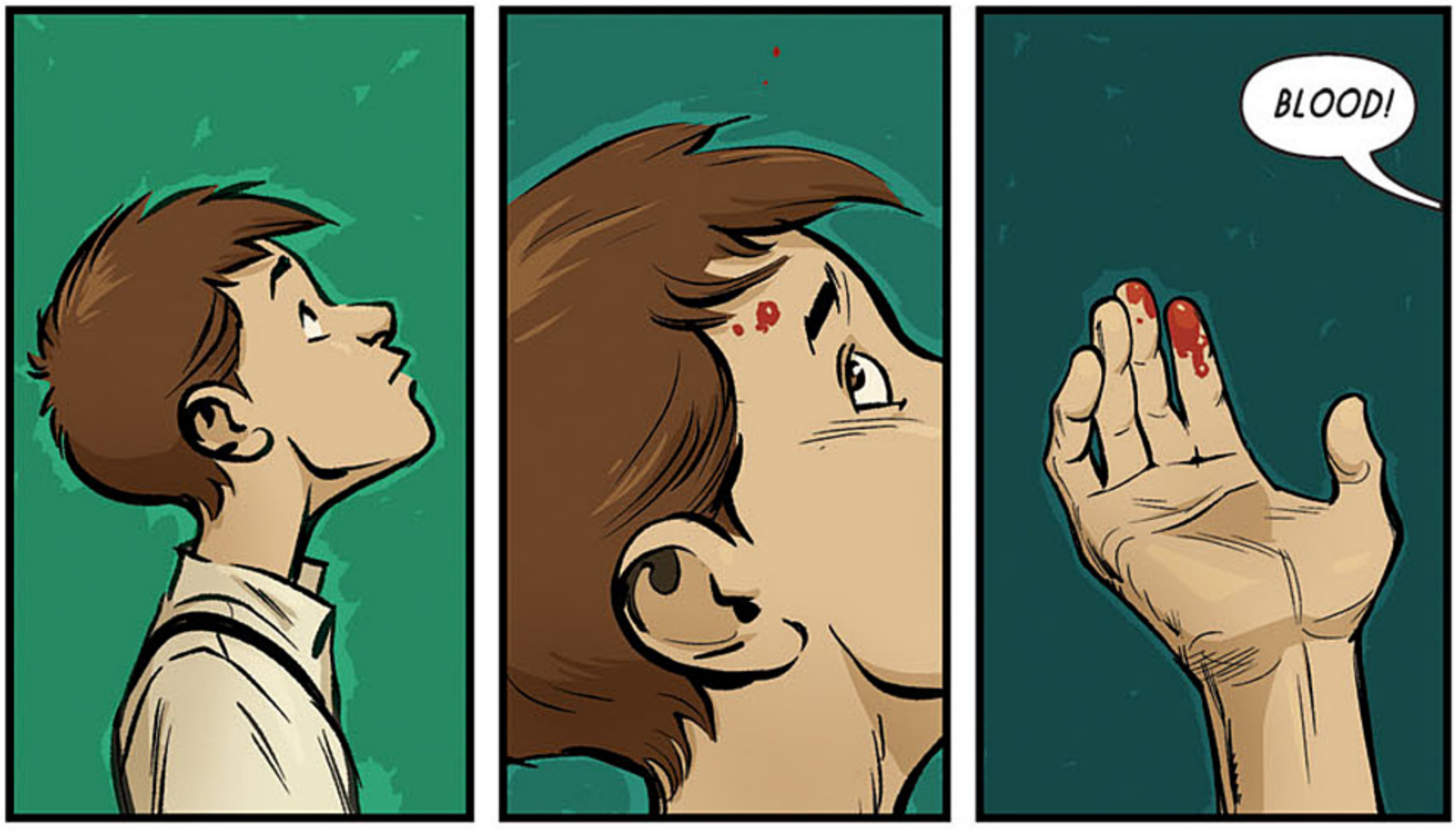
SOMEBODY SHOULD ENJOY THEM.

COO-ROO
COO-ROO
COO-ROO

WHAT?

COO-ROO

WHAT DO YOU WANT?


BLOOD!

I DROPPED MY KNIFE.

IT'S SOMEWHERE ON THE GROUND . . .

I SHOULD RUN.

GET AWAY FROM HERE RIGHT NOW.

I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO HELP ALLIED SOLDIERS.

IT WILL JUST TAKE A MINUTE!

A SOLDIER!

HEY, KID...

CAN YOU HELP ME?

HIS FRENCH HAS A STRANGE TWANG. AMERICAN, MAYBE?

THE NAZIS FOUND AN ALLIED PILOT HIDING IN A FARMER'S BARN.

THEY SHOT THE PILOT AND THE FARMER.

THEY SENT THE FARMER'S FAMILY TO A WORK CAMP.

NO ONE EXPECTS TO SEE THEM EVER AGAIN.

THANKS, KID.

MY NAME'S VICTOR.

SERGEANT VICTOR LOPEZ, UNITED STATES ARMY.

I'M PAUL.

THAT'S A PARATROOPER PIN. YOUR PLANE DIDN'T CRASH!

YOU WERE TRAINED TO JUMP OUT AND PARACHUTE DOWN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN UP HERE?

SINCE FOUR IN THE MORNING.

IT WASN'T A GOOD FLIGHT.

WE CAME UNDER ENEMY FIRE OFF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

I HAD TO JUMP TOO LOW. NO TIME TO STEER.

THAT'S HOW I WOUND UP STUCK IN THIS TREE.

COO-ROO

ELLIE!
I TOLD YOU TO
GET GOING!

ELLIE IS
A CARRIER
PIGEON.

THAT'S WHAT
THE LITTLE METAL
TUBE IS FOR.

THEY CARRY
MESSAGES!

THE ARMY SENT
ELLIE ALONG
WITH ME.

SHE'S
SUPPOSED
TO FLY BACK TO
ENGLAND WITH
A MESSAGE THAT
I GOT STUCK IN
THIS TREE.

BUT SHE
DOESN'T SEEM
TO WANT TO
LEAVE ME.

I THINK
SHE LIKES
YOU!

THE ARMY'S GOING TO FIRE YOU, ELLIE.

BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN LE ROC—

VRRRRRRRRRRRRR

A NAZI PATROL!

WE HAVE TO GET DOWN . . .

I HEARD HE LED THE ROUNDUP OF OUR JEWISH NEIGHBORS LAST MARCH.

HIS DOG IS A TRAINED KILLER.

SNIFF

SNUFFLE

SNUFFLE

SNUFF

HE SMELLS VICTOR'S BLOOD!

GRRRRRRR

THIS WAY!

GOOD WORK, PAUL . . .

HIER DRÜBEN . . .

CAPTAIN EGON STROOP!

GRRRRRR

ARROOO

PECK

COO-WEEEK COO-WEEEK COO-WEEEK

WAS IST DAS . . . ?

GRRRR RAFF SNAP RAFF SNAP RAFF SNAP

EIN VOGEL!

RAT-TAT-TAT-
TAT-TAT

YIPE
YIPE
YIPE
YIPE

GEHT IHM NACH!

STROOP WILL BE BACK.

IS THERE ANOTHER WAY OUT OF HERE?

FOLLOW ME.

SOMEONE COULD SEE US HERE.

THERE ARE DIRTY RATS IN TOWN WHO SPY FOR MONEY—

COO-ROO

I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN HIDE.

YOU SHOULD GO HOME. THIS IS WAY TOO MUCH TO ASK.

DO YOU HEAR THAT?

THIS WAY.

GERARD AND I EXPLORED EVERY INCH OF LE ROC.

WE DISCOVERED EVERY SECRET PATH.

RACE YOU!

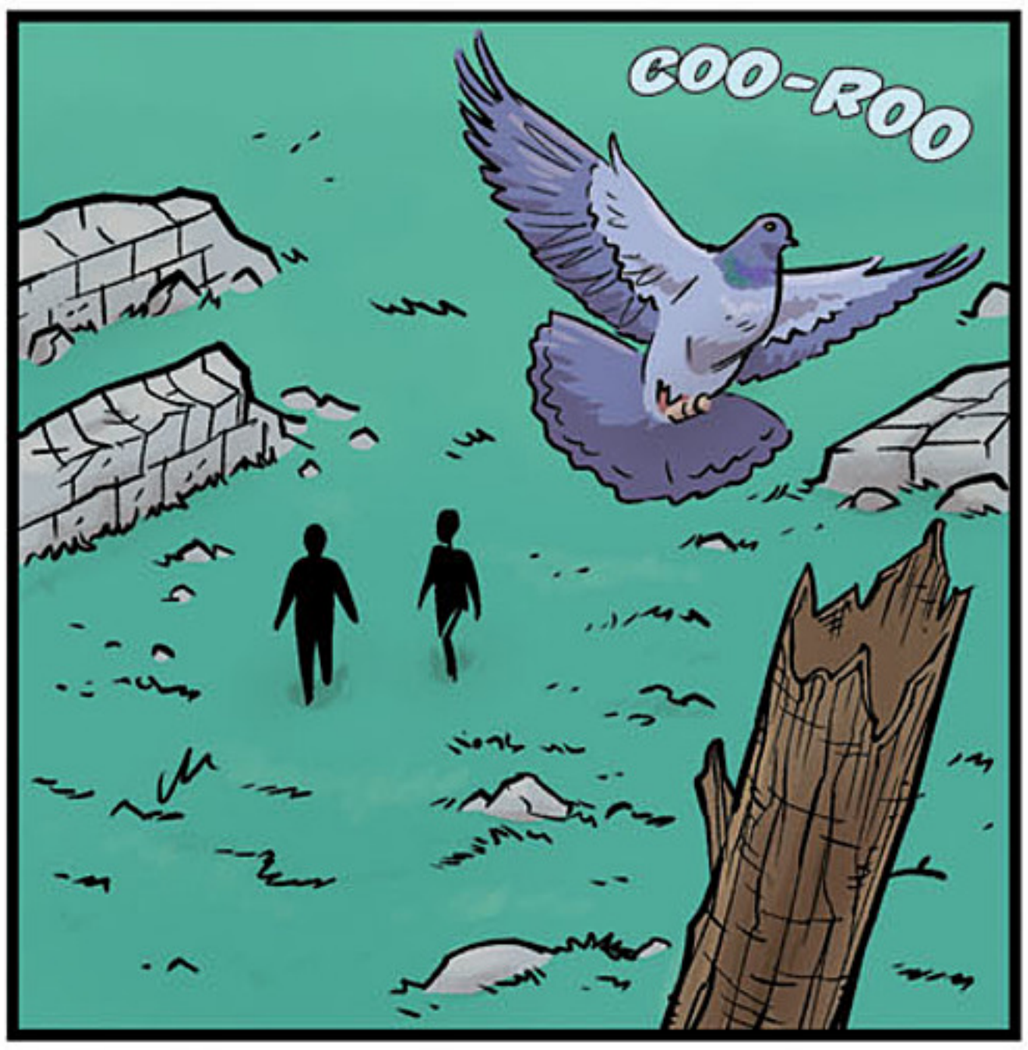
ONE LAST TURN AND WE'RE THERE.

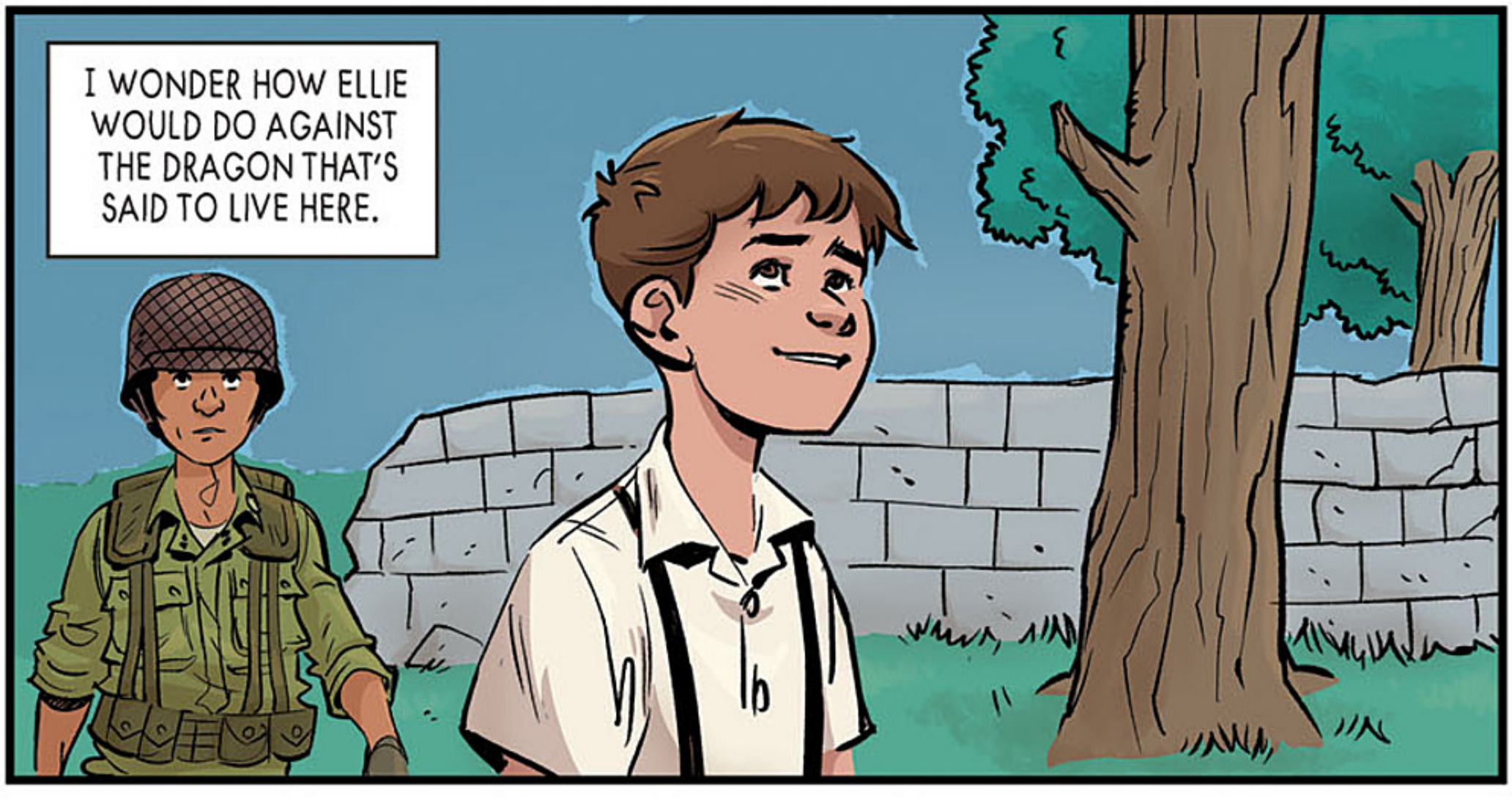
THE PLACE NO ONE GOES.
NOT EVEN THE NAZIS.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
AN OLD CASTLE.

NO ONE EVER COMES HERE.
I CAN SEE WHY.

I CAN'T TELL VICTOR ABOUT THE BURNED BODY I HEARD THEY FOUND HERE LAST SUMMER.
THE POLICE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.


COO-ROO


I WONDER HOW ELLIE WOULD DO AGAINST THE DRAGON THAT'S SAID TO LIVE HERE.

THE CASTLE LE ROC.
US

CRUNCH
US
GASP
DON'T MOVE!

MY NAME IS—
US
SHUT UP!

IS ANYONE ELSE WITH YOU?
NO.

YOU'D BETTER HOPE SO.

NOW—

—MOVE IT!

CLANG

THAT MAN MUST BE WORKING FOR THE NAZIS!

HE'LL COLLECT A BIG REWARD FOR CAPTURING US.

CALM DOWN, PAUL.

I THINK THAT MAN IS IN THE RESISTANCE.

THE RESISTANCE?

HE CAN'T BE. THE NAZIS KILLED THEM ALL.
NO, PAUL.
THERE ARE STILL THOUSANDS LEFT.
WHY WOULD HE LOCK US IN A DUNGEON? AREN'T WE ON THE SAME SIDE?
YES, BUT THEY CAN'T TRUST ANYONE.
WE MAY HAVE STUMBLED ONTO SOME KIND OF RESISTANCE HIDEOUT.

THIS CASTLE?

MAKES SENSE.

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF.

IT'S THE ONE PLACE THE NAZIS WON'T GO.

I'M SORRY. AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED IN LE ROC . . .

I'M JUST AFRAID TO BE . . . HOPEFUL.

CRREEEEEEEAK

IT CAN'T BE . . .
CAN IT?
MR. LEON IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

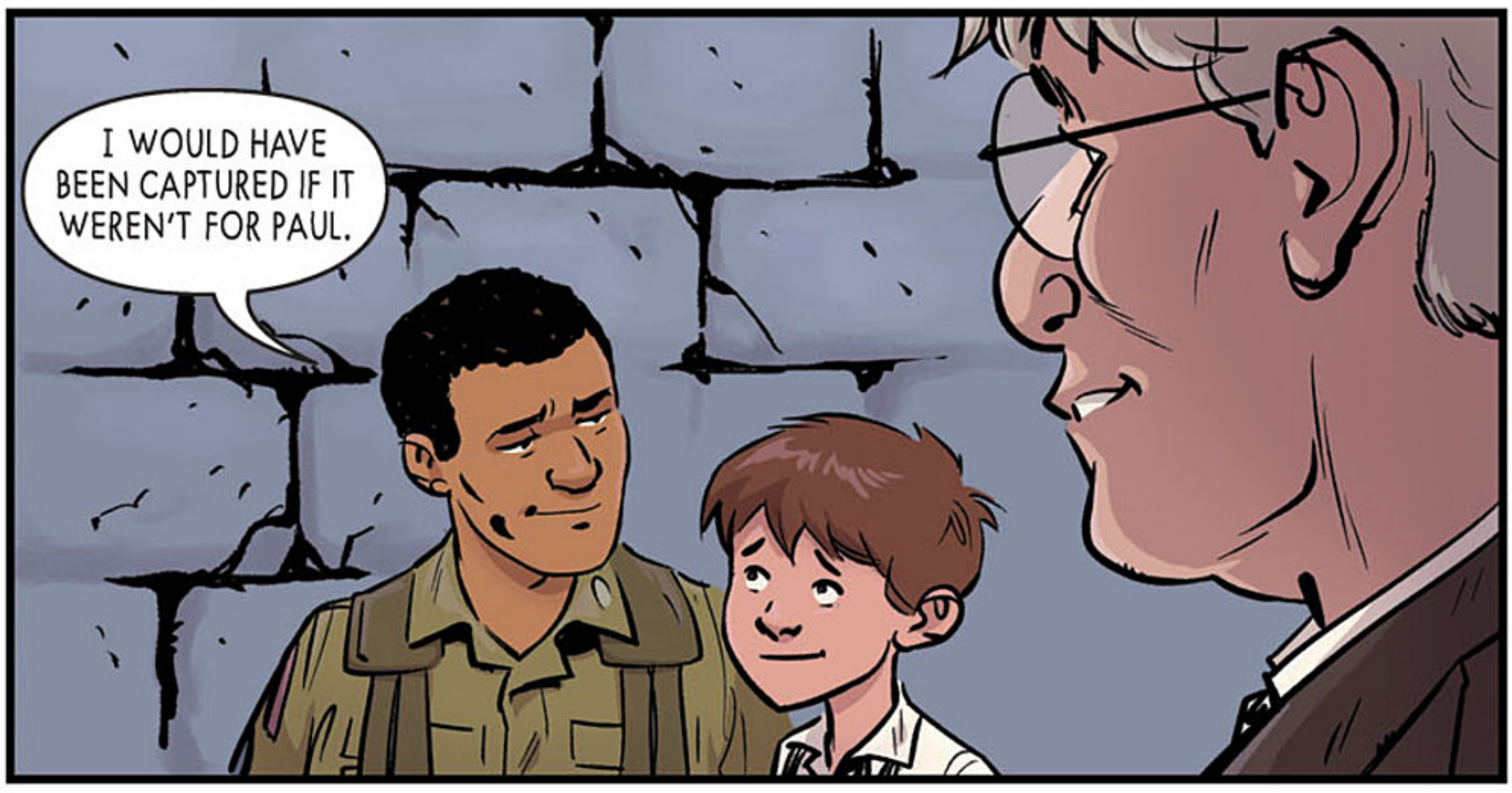
I'M SERGEANT VICTOR LOPEZ, UNITED STATES ARMY.
THIS BOY HERE IS—
WE'RE OLD FRIENDS.

A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, SERGEANT LOPEZ.

WELCOME TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LE ROC RESISTANCE!

I KNOW WHY THE ALLIES SENT YOU. WE ARE READY TO HELP YOU WITH THIS MISSION.

WE HAD OUR PEOPLE OUT LOOKING FOR YOU LAST NIGHT.
BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND YOU.


I WOULD HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IF IT WEREN'T FOR PAUL.

WE TELL MR. LEON HOW WE FOUND EACH OTHER.

THIS KID IS BRAVE!

I'M SORRY, PAUL.

I WISH I COULD HAVE LET YOU KNOW I WAS ALL RIGHT.

ONLY A FEW PEOPLE KNOW I ESCAPED.

IF THE NAZIS HAD CAUGHT ME, IT WOULD HAVE PUT MANY LIVES IN DANGER.

IT'S FAR BETTER THAT THE NAZIS THINK I'M AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER.

VICTOR, LET'S GET YOU SETTLED SO WE CAN GET TO WORK.

COO-ROO

ELLIE IS MY CARRIER PIGEON.

EXCELLENT!

SHE CAN SEND A MESSAGE BACK THAT YOU'VE MADE IT.

I'M NOT SO SURE . . .

THIS IS PIERRE. HE'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU INSIDE.

SORRY FOR THE ROUGH WELCOME.

I RECOGNIZE YOU, SIR. YOU'RE A POLICEMAN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS WAY, SERGEANT.

PAUL, IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU TO LEAVE HERE NOW.

"THE NAZIS ARE SEARCHING FOR SERGEANT LOPEZ.

"SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE SEEN YOU IN THE AREA."

WE NEED TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT THE NAZIS KNOW.
SO I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE.

I WANT TO STAY . . .

BUT WHAT ABOUT MAMAN?

YOUR MOTHER, YES . . .
SHE'S DUE HERE IN JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS.

MAMAN? IS SHE . . .
IS SHE IN THE RESISTANCE?

SHE'S ONE OF MANY PEOPLE IN LE ROC WHO ARE PART OF THIS FIGHT.

SHE'S ONE OF OUR BEST MESSENGERS.

QUIET, GENTLE MAMAN?

ALL THOSE MORNINGS WHEN SHE LEFT BEFORE DAWN.

SHE CAME HOME LATE AND HER FACE WAS FLUSHED.

MR. LEON, PLEASE LET ME HELP!

Five hours later . . .

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE NAZIS ARE HIDING THE WEAPONS RIGHT HERE.

"THE OLD BARN THE NAZIS HAVE BEEN USING AS A WAREHOUSE."

I RECOGNIZE EVERYONE ELSE HERE.

THERE'S MARIE.

SHE'S APPARENTLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SPIES IN THE RESISTANCE.

SHE'S PICKED UP MANY SECRETS LISTENING TO THE NAZI SOLDIERS WHILE THEY GORGE THEMSELVES AT THE BAKERY.

MR. SPIRE WAS FRIENDS WITH MY GRANDFATHER.

MRS. BERNARD HAS THE PRETTIEST VOICE IN THE CHURCH CHOIR.

AND MAMAN.

NOW I KNOW ALL ABOUT HER SECRET LIFE.

I'M PART OF IT WHETHER SHE LIKES IT OR NOT.

TODAY, MAMAN BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM THE ALLIES.

AS YOU KNOW, THE NAZIS ARE KEEPING DEADLY WEAPONS IN LE ROC.

THE ALLIES WANT THESE TERRIBLE WEAPONS DESTROYED *TONIGHT.*

NEBELWERFERS, THEY CALL THEM.

POWERFUL CANNONS WITH SIX BARRELS.

"EACH CAN SHOOT A HUNDRED ROCKETS.

"THEY CAN KILL A THOUSAND PEOPLE IN MINUTES."

YES. THE ALLIES HAVE TOLD US THAT THIS MISSION IS URGENT.

THAT'S WHY THEY SENT VICTOR. HE'S ONE OF THEIR BEST MEN.

HE'S NOT JUST A SOLDIER.

VICTOR IS A SPECIAL AGENT TRAINED IN EXPLOSIVES.

I'VE BROUGHT A NEW KIND OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE.

IT'S CALLED C-3.

IT'S VERY LIGHT.

A SMALL AMOUNT WILL CAUSE A POWERFUL BLAST.

"WE CAN SLICE OFF A BIT AND PUT IT IN THE CANNON BARRELS.

"WHEN THE NAZIS FIRE THE CANNON, THE WHOLE THING WILL EXPLODE."

WE WILL TURN THEIR WEAPON OF DEATH AGAINST THEM.

EXACTLY.

ANY QUESTIONS?

I HAVE A QUESTION.

WE TOLD THE ALLIES THERE WERE *NEBELWERFERS* HERE MONTHS AGO.

NOW THEY'VE SENT VICTOR AND SAY WE MUST DESTROY THESE WEAPONS TONIGHT.

WHAT CHANGED TO MAKE THINGS SO URGENT?

JACQUES . . .

ARE THE ALLIES ABOUT TO ATTACK FRANCE? IS THAT WHY?

ARE THE ALLIES COMING HERE, TO NORMANDY? IS THAT WHY THEY WANT THE WEAPONS DESTROYED?

I BELIEVE THE DAY HAS FINALLY COME.

I'VE HEARD ONLY RUMORS . . .

AND IF THE GERMANS FIND OUT, THE INVASION WILL CERTAINLY FAIL.

"THEY SAY THE ALLIES ARE SENDING A MASSIVE FORCE ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL."

THIS WILL BE THE LARGEST INVASION BY SEA IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

THOUSANDS OF SHIPS!

"TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MEN WILL COME ASHORE ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY . . .

"INCLUDING RIGHT HERE IN LE ROC."

PD 29.4

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT THOSE *NEBELWERFERS* COULD DO TO THOSE MEN ON THE BEACHES.

IT WOULD BE A SLAUGHTER.

LET'S GO, SERGEANT.

WE MUST DESTROY THOSE WEAPONS TONIGHT!

AFTER MARIE, PIERRE, AND VICTOR LEAVE, THE HOURS CREEP BY.

WE HAVE NO ELECTRICITY.

MRS. BERNARD SPINS A BICYCLE WHEEL TO POWER THE RADIO.

THE ALLIES WILL SEND A NEW MESSAGE THROUGH THE BBC SOON.

SEE ANYTHING YET?

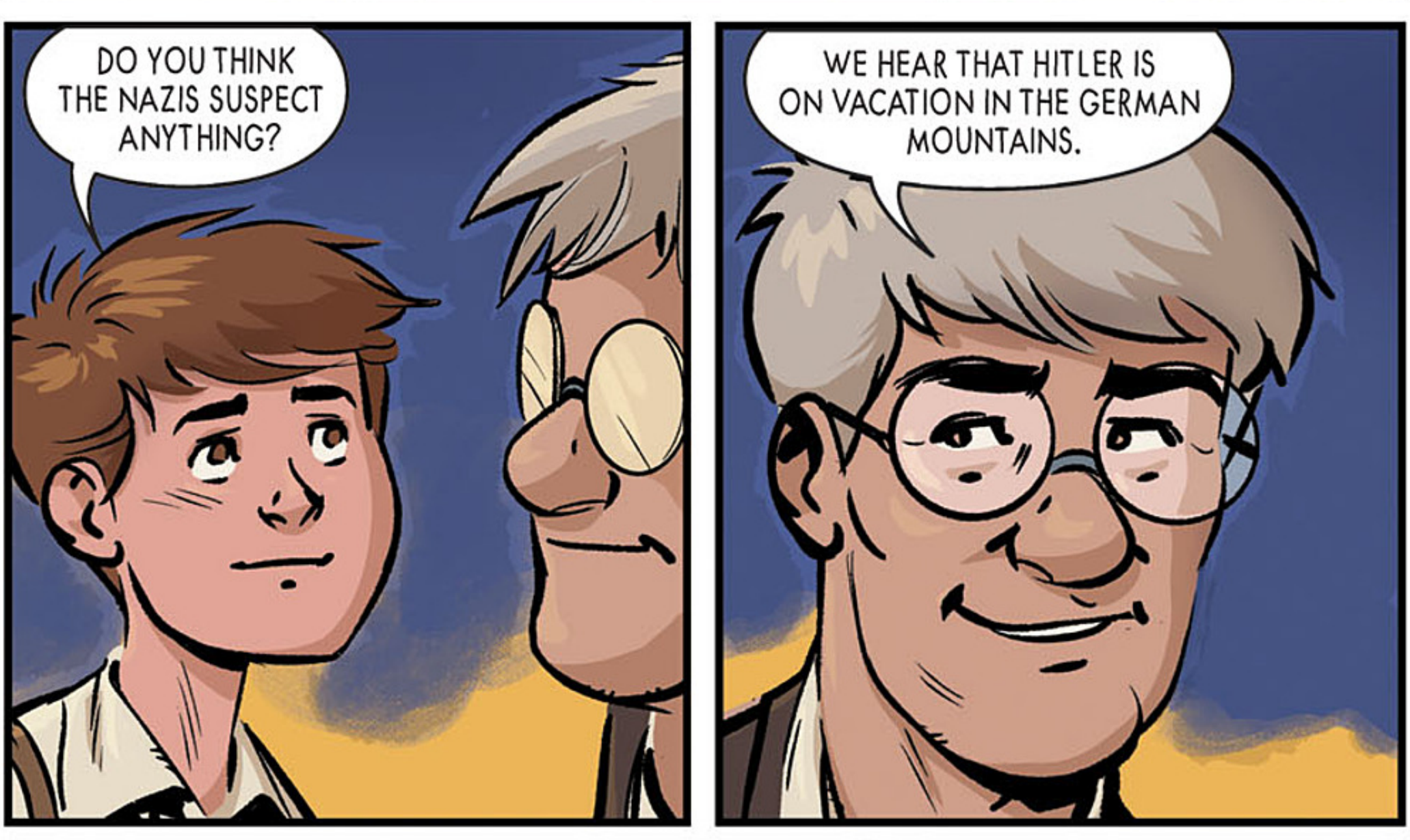
ONLY RAIN.

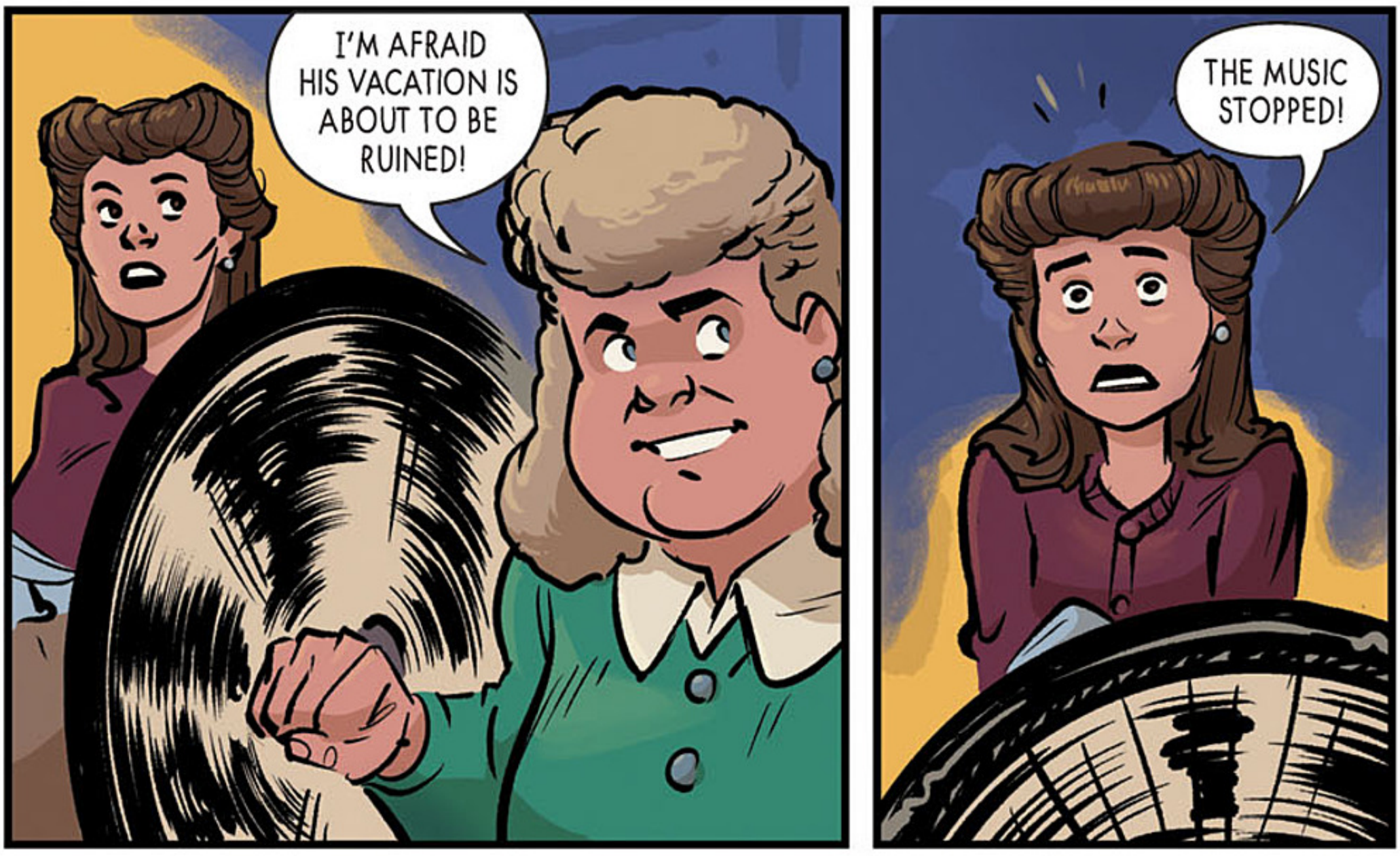
MR. LEON TOLD US THAT THE PARATROOPERS WON'T ARRIVE UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT.

THEY MAY NOT LAND THIS CLOSE TO THE BEACHES.

I FEEL SO RESTLESS.
COME, SIT.
THESE ARE THE BEACHES WHERE THE ALLIES WILL LAND.
THIS INVASION IS JUST THE START.
"AFTER THE ALLIES TAKE CONTROL OF THE BEACHES, MORE TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT WILL COME FROM ENGLAND.
"THE ALLIES WILL TAKE BACK OUR TOWNS AND CITIES.
"THEY'LL TAKE BACK PARIS."

THEN THEY'LL BATTLE ACROSS EUROPE TO GERMANY.


DO YOU THINK THE NAZIS SUSPECT ANYTHING?
WE HEAR THAT HITLER IS ON VACATION IN THE GERMAN MOUNTAINS.


I'M AFRAID HIS VACATION IS ABOUT TO BE RUINED!
THE MUSIC STOPPED!

THIS IS IT!

LISTEN . . .

MY HEART IS DROWNED . . .

IN THE SLOW SOUND . . .

LANGUOROUS AND LONG.

YES! THAT'S IT! IT'S THE POEM!

IT'S A SECRET MESSAGE TO THE RESISTANCE GROUPS ALL OVER FRANCE.

IT'S TELLING US THAT THE INVASION IS ABOUT TO START.

THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MESSAGE.

NOW THEY'RE SPRINGING INTO ACTION.

"EACH GROUP HAS A DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENT.

"DYNAMITE ROADS. DESTROY BRIDGES.

"BLOW UP AMMUNITION WAREHOUSES. BLOW UP TRAINS.

"ANOTHER GROUP IN LE ROC WILL CUT THE PHONE LINES SO THE LOCAL NAZIS CAN'T SPEAK TO THEIR GENERALS."

IT'S HAPPENING, PAUL.

IF ALL GOES WELL, THIS WAR—

—THIS NIGHTMARE—

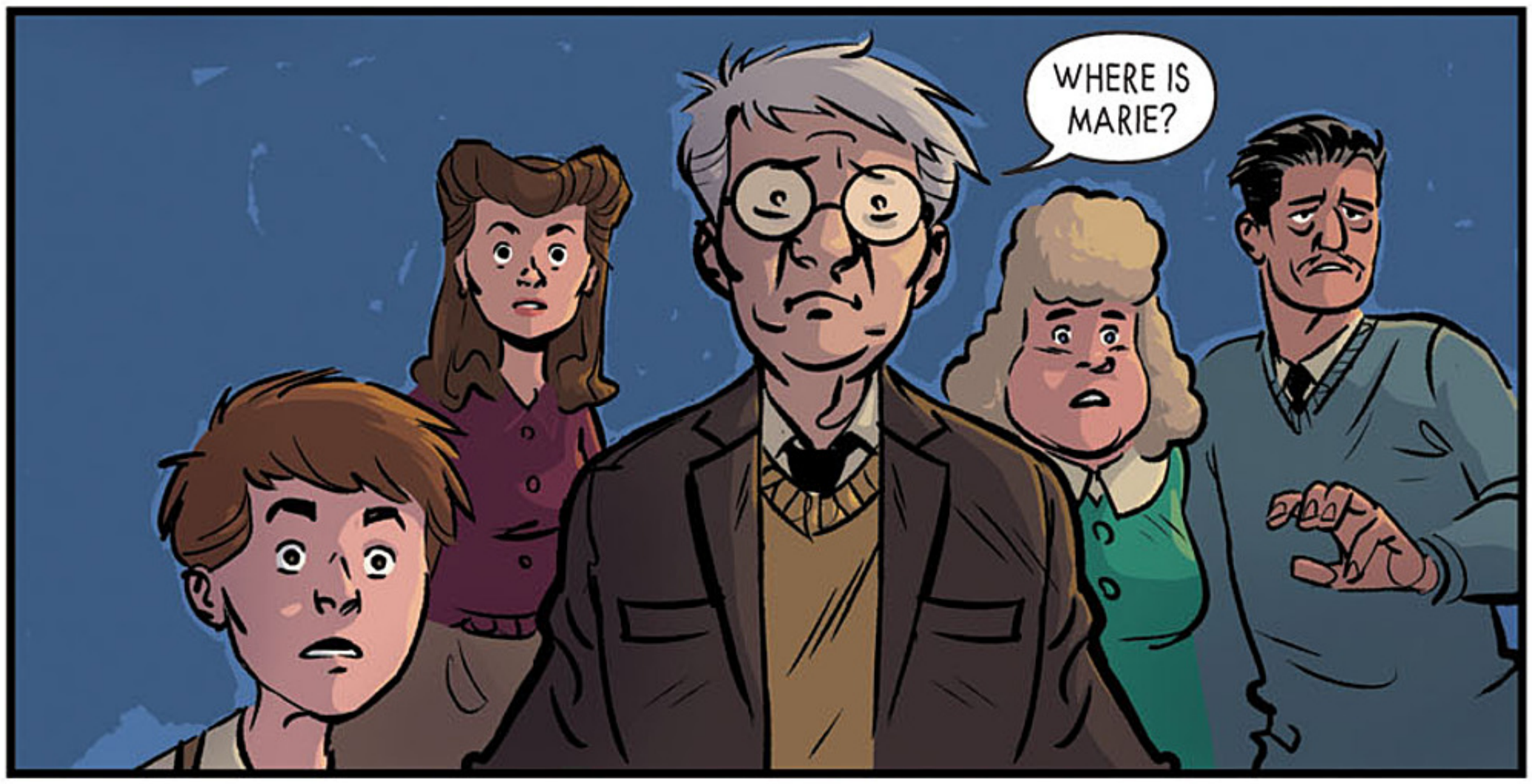
—COULD BE OVER.

DO YOU HEAR A VOICE?

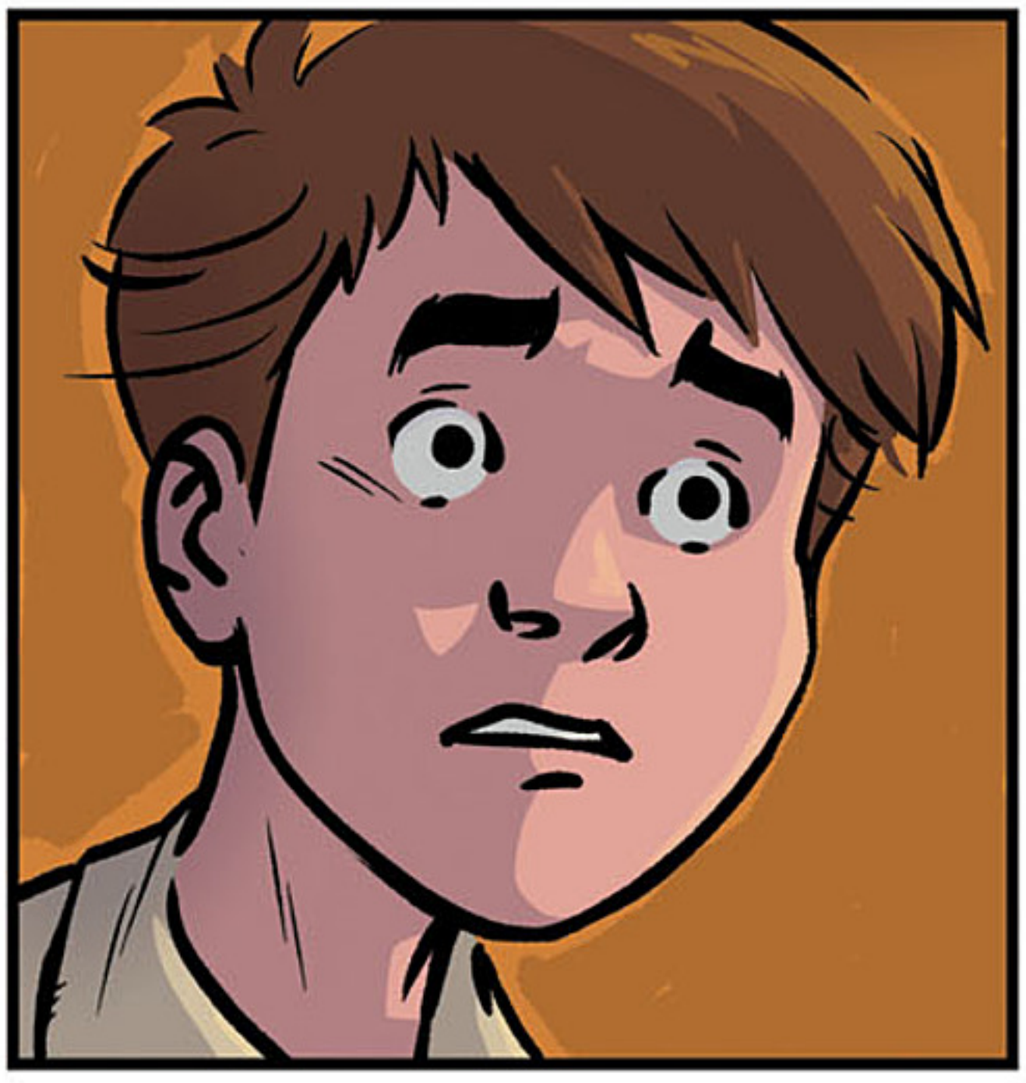
IT'S PIERRE!

THEY'RE BACK!

WHAT HAPPENED?
VICTOR'S BEEN SHOT.


WHERE IS MARIE?

MARIE IS DEAD.



PAUL, STAY WITH THE OTHERS.

CLICK

PAUL . . .

YOUR MOTHER HAS HELPED WOUNDED SOLDIERS BEFORE.

OUR GROUP HAS HELPED RESCUE NEARLY FIFTY ALLIED PILOTS WHO CRASHED AROUND LE ROC OVER THE YEARS.

SHE KNOWS WHAT TO DO.

WHAT HAPPENED, PIERRE? WHAT WENT WRONG?

THERE WERE TWO GUARDS, JUST AS WE EXPECTED . . .

WE SNUCK IN THROUGH A SIDE DOOR.
WE DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A THIRD SOLDIER IN THE BACK.
"AS WE WERE LEAVING, THEY SPOTTED US.
"THEY ALL CAME AFTER US.
"MARIE GOT TWO OF THEM.
BANG
BANG
BANG
"I GOT THE THIRD—"
BANG

—BUT NOT BEFORE HE SHOT MARIE.

IT'S MY FAULT. I SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM.

NO, YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW VICTOR HAD BEEN SHOT. HE SAID NOTHING.

I HURT MY ANKLE DURING THE FIGHT AND WAS WORRIED ABOUT MYSELF.

"AFTER A MILE, I COULD SEE HE WAS ABOUT TO DROP.

"SHOT IN THE SHOULDER."

IT'S BAD. I HOPE HE'LL MAKE IT.

JACQUES . . .

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.

ABOUT THE *NEBELWERFERS* . . .

WHAT?

THEY WEREN'T THERE.

THE BARN WAS EMPTY, EXCEPT FOR A FEW BOXES OF AMMUNITION.

THEY MUST HAVE MOVED THEM.

VICTOR SWIPED THIS FROM A DESK.

WE HOPE IT WILL TELL US WHERE THE WEAPONS ARE.

WE PLANNED TO FIND THEM OURSELVES, BUT NOW . . .

YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD.

WE HAVE A LONG NIGHT AHEAD OF US.

WE MUST GATHER OUR STRENGTH FOR WHAT'S TO COME.

THIS NOTEBOOK IS A LIST OF WEAPONS.

THEIR CODE FOR *NEBELWERFER* IS Nbw.

LOOK FOR THAT.

THERE!

GOOD EYE, SON.

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE PUT THEM ON THE CLIFFS, OVER THE BEACH.

MAMAN SAID THIS NIGHTMARE WAS ABOUT TO END.

IS A NEW ONE ABOUT TO BEGIN?

I GOT THE BULLET OUT AND STITCHED THE WOUND.

AND I GAVE VICTOR SOME MEDICINE FOR THE PAIN.

HE'LL BE ASLEEP FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AT LEAST.

WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?

I'VE SEEN MUCH WORSE.

WE'LL KNOW MORE WHEN HE WAKES UP.

MR. LEON TELLS PIERRE'S STORY TO MAMAN AND MR. SPIRE.

WE NEED TO GO TO THE CLIFFS AND DESTROY THE *NEBELWERFERS* NOW.

BUT HOW?

I RIDE MY BICYCLE ON THOSE ROADS EVERY DAY. THEY HAVE GUARDS POSTED BY ALL THE PATHS THAT LEAD TO THE CLIFFS.

"AND OVER ON THE CLIFFS THEY HAVE HUNDREDS OF TROOPS WITH MACHINE GUNS AND EXPLOSIVES."

A FIELD ON THE CLIFFS OVERLOOKING THE BEACH . . .

I KNOW HOW TO GET THERE WITHOUT THE ROADS.

THERE'S A WAY TO CUT THROUGH THE HEDGEROWS, CROSS THE WOODS, AND CLIMB OVER A FENCE.

CAN YOU DRAW US A MAP?

SO MANY TWISTS AND TURNS . . .

SECRET CUTS IN BUSHES ONLY GERARD AND I COULD SEE . . .

I CAN'T DRAW IT OR TELL YOU.

I'LL GO THERE. I'LL SHOW YOU.

NO, PAUL.

NO BOY SHOULD DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

NO BOY SHOULD SEE HIS TEACHER SHOT.

NO BOY SHOULD HAVE HIS BEST FRIEND TAKEN IN THE NIGHT.

I'LL TAKE HIM.

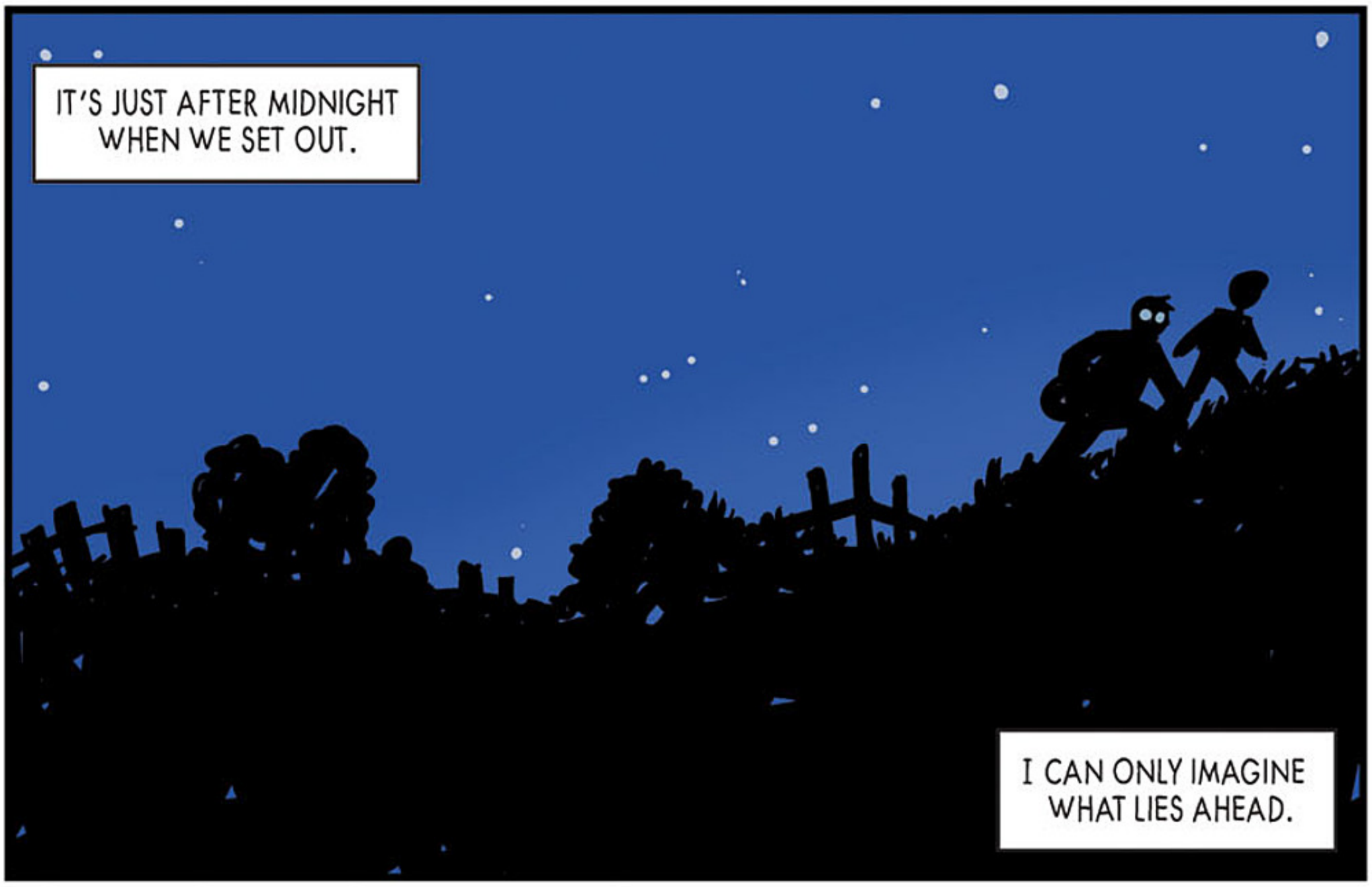
ANNA, NO.

VICTOR NEEDS YOU IF HE TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORSE.

I WOULD GO, IF NOT FOR THIS LEG . . .

PAUL . . .

WE LEAVE IN FIVE MINUTES.


IT'S JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT WHEN WE SET OUT.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT LIES AHEAD.

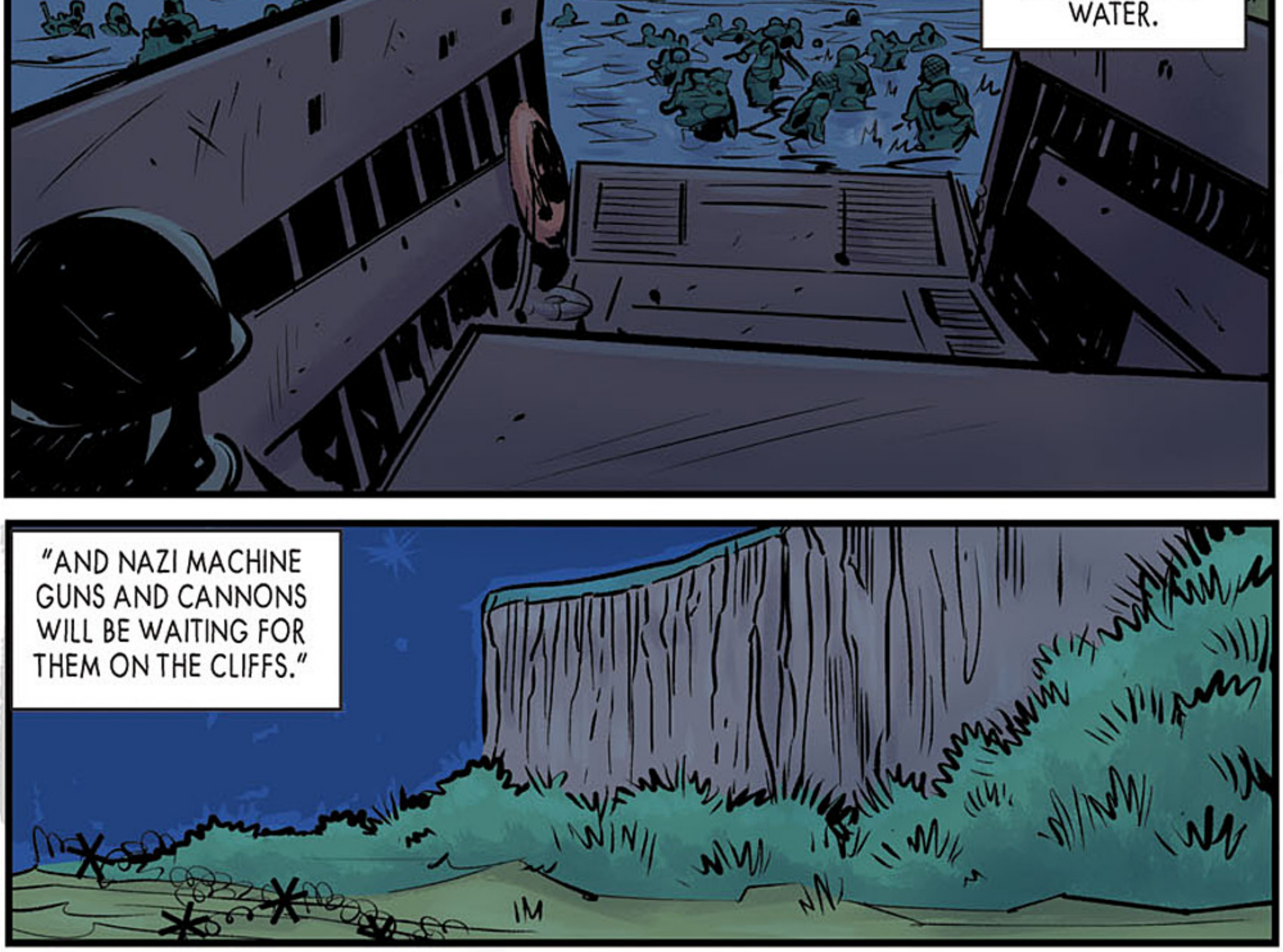
SHIPS MUST ALREADY BE GATHERED IN THE CHANNEL . . .
PACKED WITH SOLDIERS.

I GOT SEASICK WHEN I RODE A BOAT IN THE CHANNEL.
WILL THEY?
THOSE SOLDIERS ARE OUT THERE RIGHT NOW, RIDING THROUGH CHOPPY WATERS IN THE DARK.

THE BOATS WON'T BE ABLE TO BRING THE SOLDIERS ALL THE WAY TO THE LAND.

THEY WILL HAVE TO GET OFF THEIR BOATS AT LEAST A HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE BEACH.

"THEY WILL WADE ASHORE IN THE FREEZING WATER.


"AND NAZI MACHINE GUNS AND CANNONS WILL BE WAITING FOR THEM ON THE CLIFFS."

I TRY TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

MR. LEON, WHAT ABOUT THE BURNED BODY THEY FOUND NEAR THE CASTLE TOWER?

WE MADE IT UP.

IT WAS A LIE, A TRICK.

PIERRE WROTE UP A REPORT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE IT APPEAR OFFICIAL.

AND IT WORKED. NOBODY CAME TO THE CASTLE.

UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DRAGON?
DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT WHEN YOU'RE IN THE CASTLE?
I DO, QUITE A BIT. BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU MIGHT THINK.
"IN THE LEGEND, THE DRAGON PROTECTS THE CASTLE.
"WHEN THERE WAS A WAR, THE PEOPLE OF LE ROC WOULD RUSH TO THE CASTLE FOR SAFETY."

SO THE CASTLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE HIDE FROM DANGER.

EXACTLY.

I HAVEN'T BEEN UP IN THE TOWER. IT SEEMS READY TO CRUMBLE.

BUT I'VE LOOKED UP THERE MANY TIMES.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY GLOWING EYES, BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH . . .

I WOULDN'T MIND IF I DID.

"IT'S LONELY IN THAT CASTLE WHEN I'M SLEEPING THERE AT NIGHT."

IT'S NICE TO THINK THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WATCHING OVER ME.

I SMELL THE SEA AIR.

SO DO I. TIME TO HUSH.

THIS IS WHERE MANY OF THE NAZIS LIVE, IN UNDERGROUND BUNKERS.

STROOP KEEPS HIS HEADQUARTERS HERE.

RUHIGE NACHT.

JA . . .

SNAP
AT LAST WE'VE FOUND THEM . . .

THE NEBELWERFERS!

WHOOSH

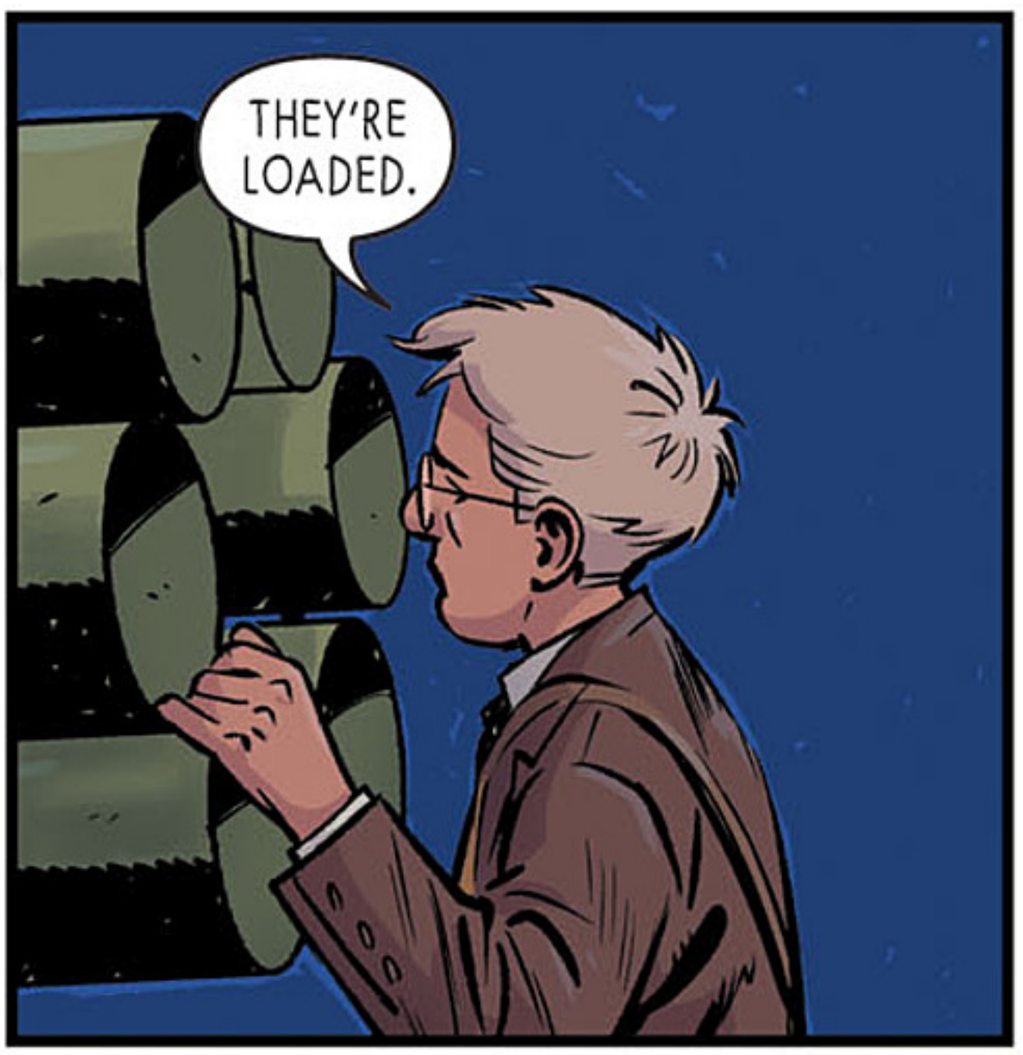
LET'S DISTRACT THAT GUARD...

CRACK

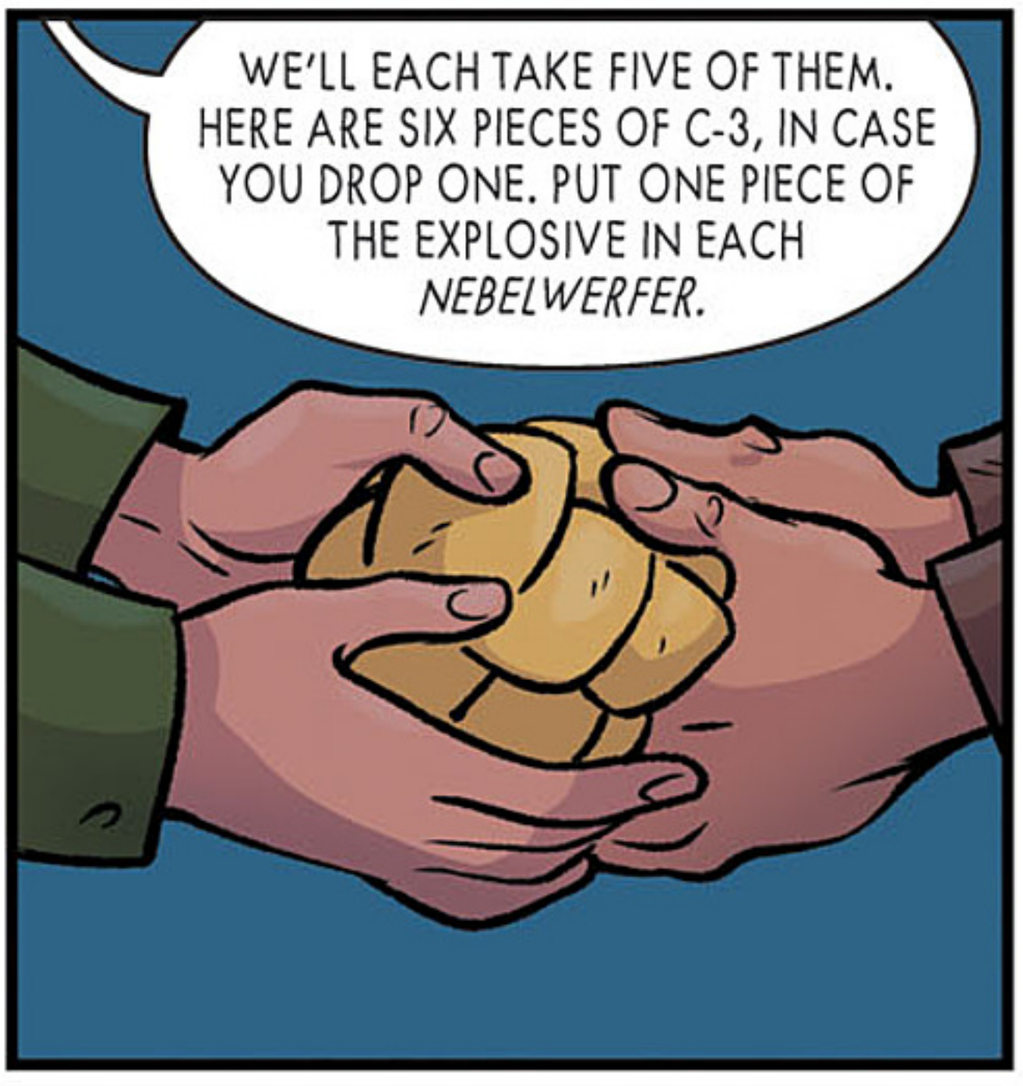
CRACK

CRACK

CRACK


THEY'RE LOADED.

EVEN IF THEY AREN'T EXPECTING THE INVASION TONIGHT, THEY'RE PREPARED FOR AN ATTACK.

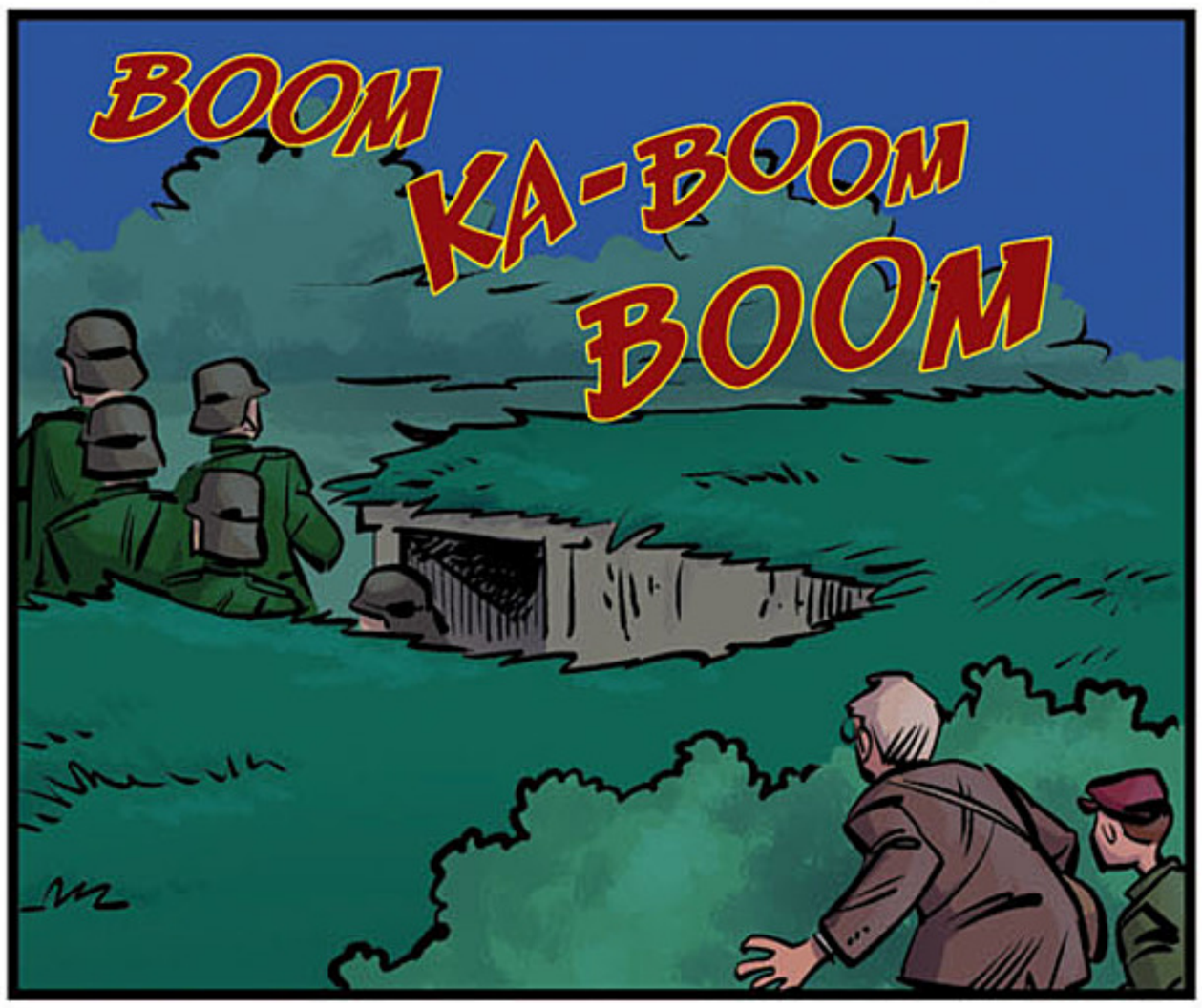

WE'LL EACH TAKE FIVE OF THEM. HERE ARE SIX PIECES OF C-3, IN CASE YOU DROP ONE. PUT ONE PIECE OF THE EXPLOSIVE IN EACH *NEBELWERFER*.

THE PIECES ALMOST LOOK LIKE MADELEINES.
THE BARREL REMINDS ME OF A SNAKE WITH ITS MOUTH OPEN.
I ALMOST EXPECT IT TO CHOMP OFF MY ARM.
BUT WE'LL BE SAFE IN THE CASTLE WITHIN AN HOUR.

WE DID IT!
LET'S GO.
MAYBE VICTOR WILL BE AWAKE WHEN WE GET BACK.
WHIRRRRR
A PLANE IS COMING ACROSS THE CHANNEL . . .
LOOK!

BOOM KA-BOOM BOOM

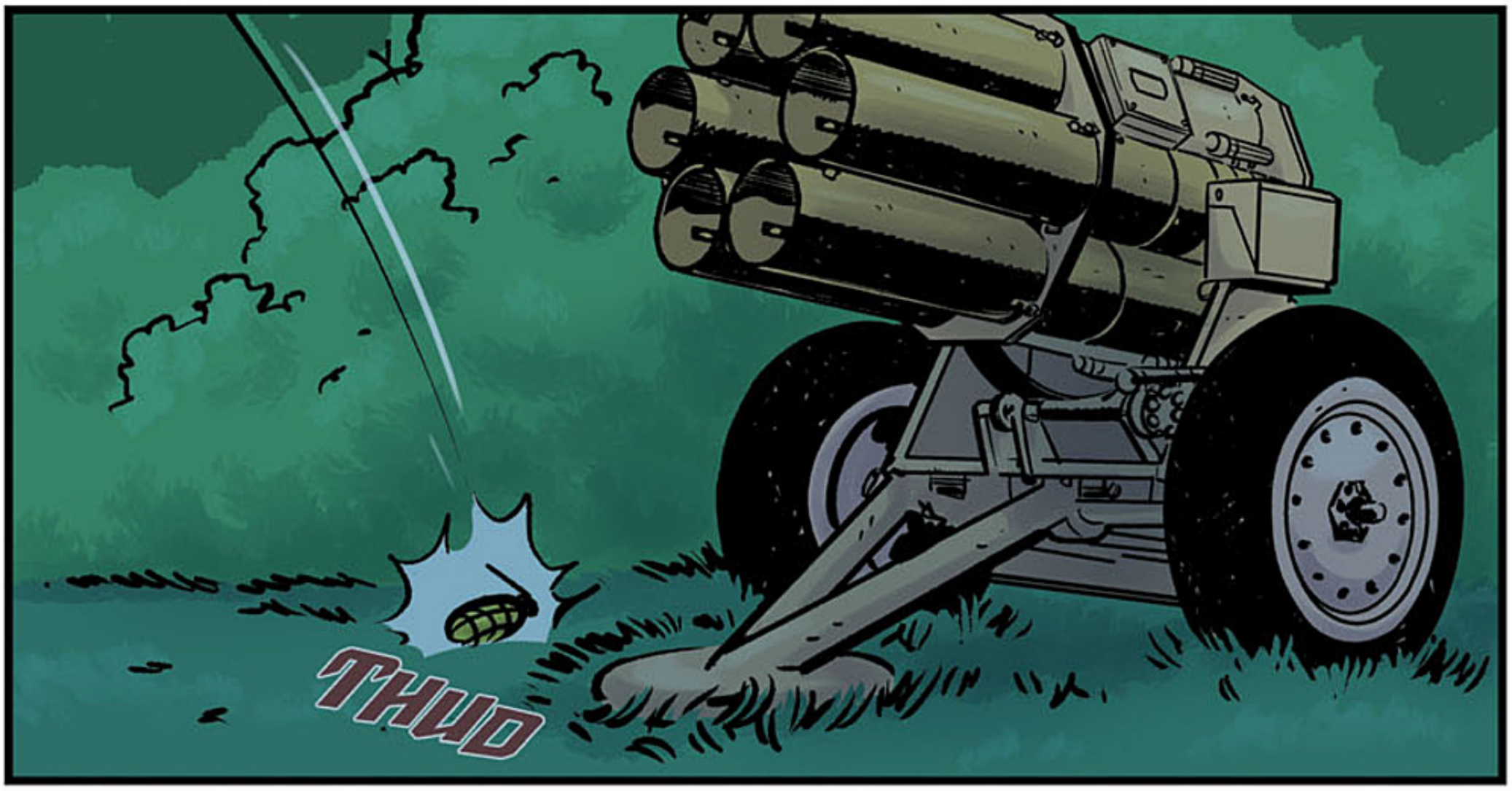
KA-BOOM


BOOM
KA-BOOM
BOOM

BOOM BOOM

WE'RE BY AN UNDERGROUND BUNKER!

WHERE CAN WE GO?!
WE NEED TO GET THESE SOLDIERS AWAY FROM HERE.
THIS GRENADE SHOULD GET ONE OF THOSE *NEBELWERFERS* TO BLOW.
GET READY TO HIT THE DIRT AND COVER YOUR EARS.
CLICK
FWIIIIISH


THUD

GET DOWN, PAUL!

KA-BOOM

THE GRENADE MUST HAVE TRIGGERED THE C-3!
KA-BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

KRAKA-
BOOM

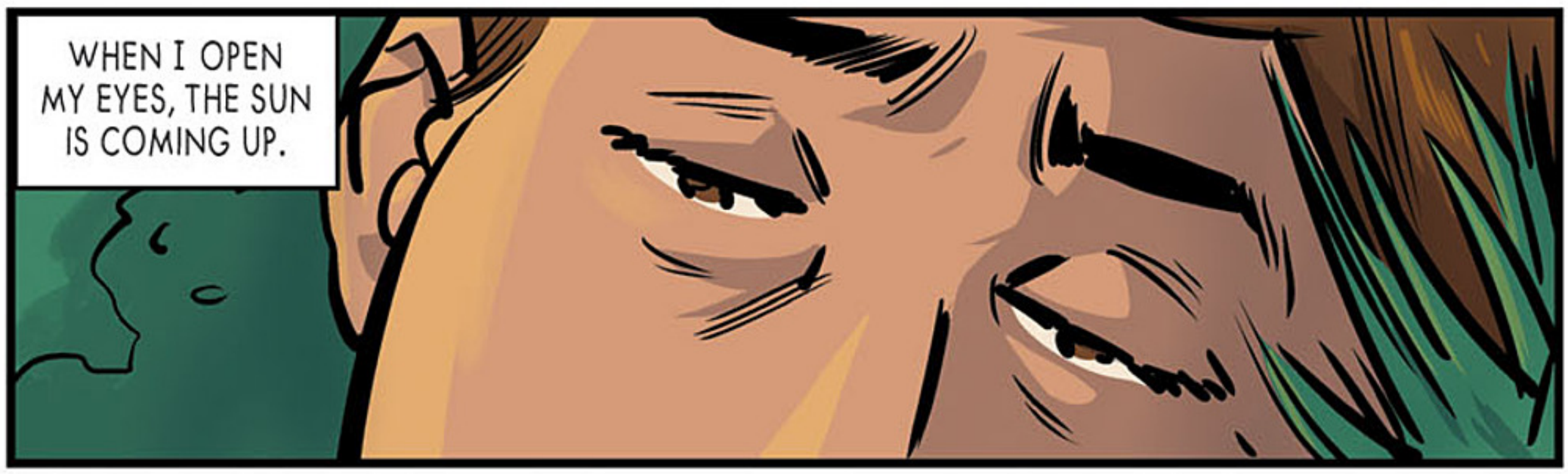
WHIRRRRRRR

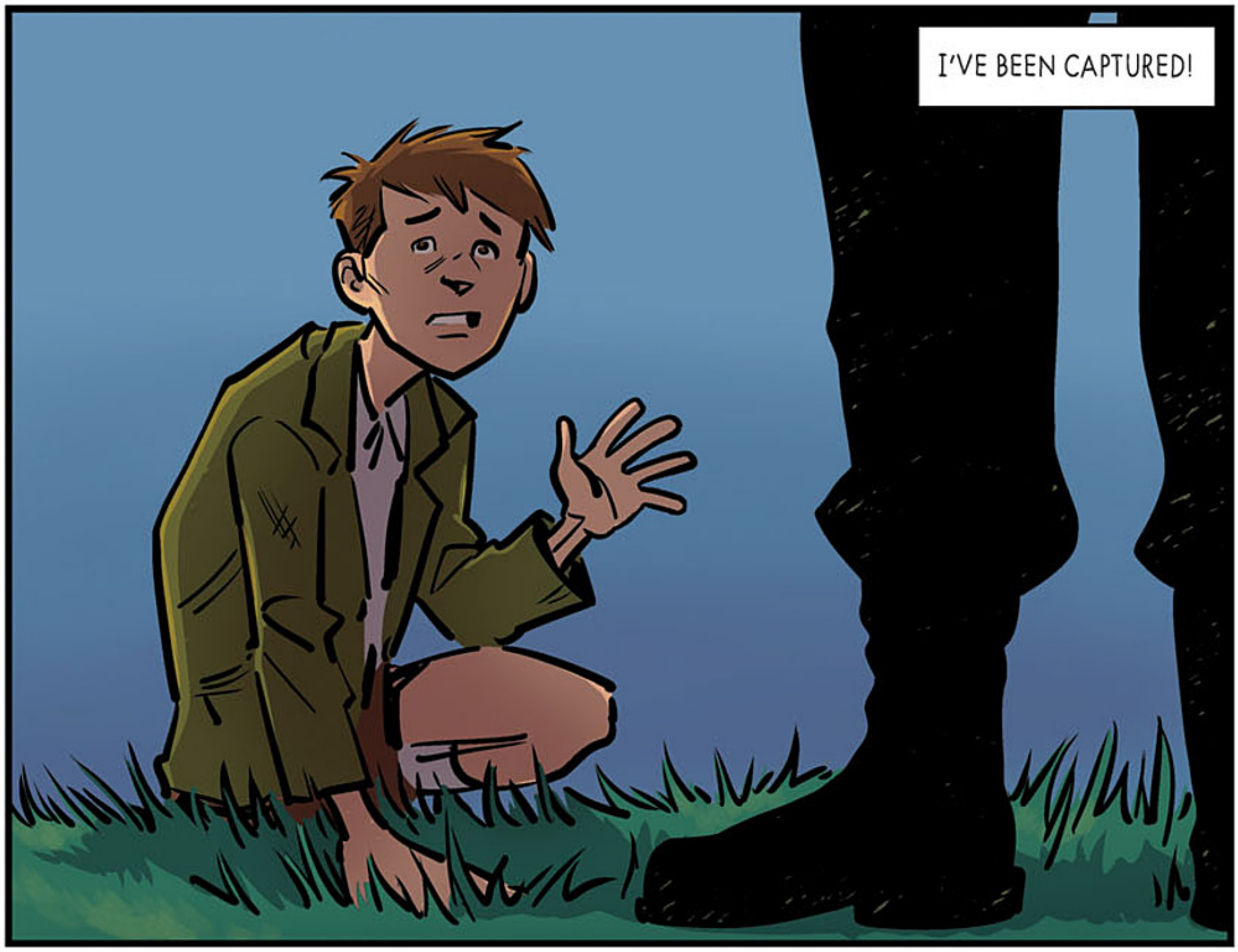
RUN, PAUL!

GET UP, PAUL!
GET UP!

WHACK
BLINDING PAIN . . .

WHIRRRRROOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMM


WHEN I OPEN MY EYES, THE SUN IS COMING UP.


I'VE BEEN CAPTURED!

DANKE.
HE LOOKS LIKE A KID.
SOMEONE I MIGHT PLAY SOCCER WITH.
WAS IST DAS?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THIS AREA IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

WELL,
WELL . . .

THE EXTRA SLAB OF C-3!

AH-AH-AH . . .

KOMMT
HER!

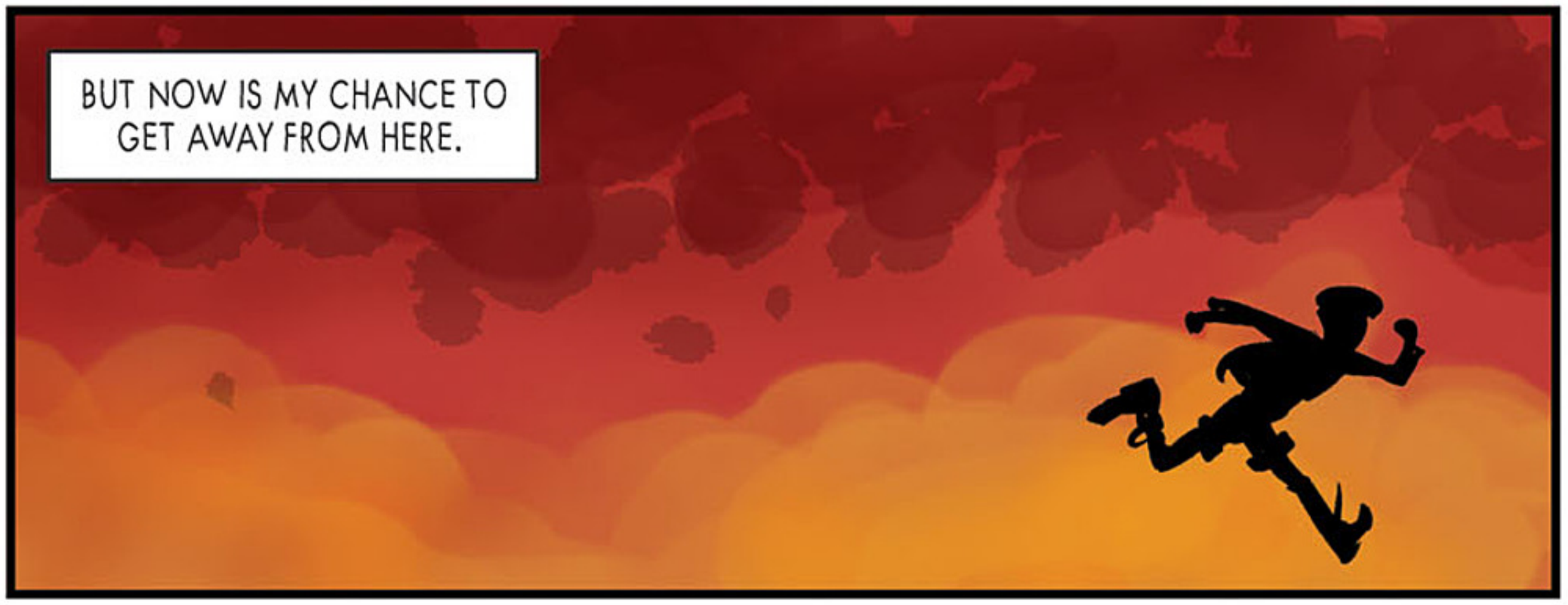
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
KABOOM

HACK
HACK
COUGH

HE'S DEAD.

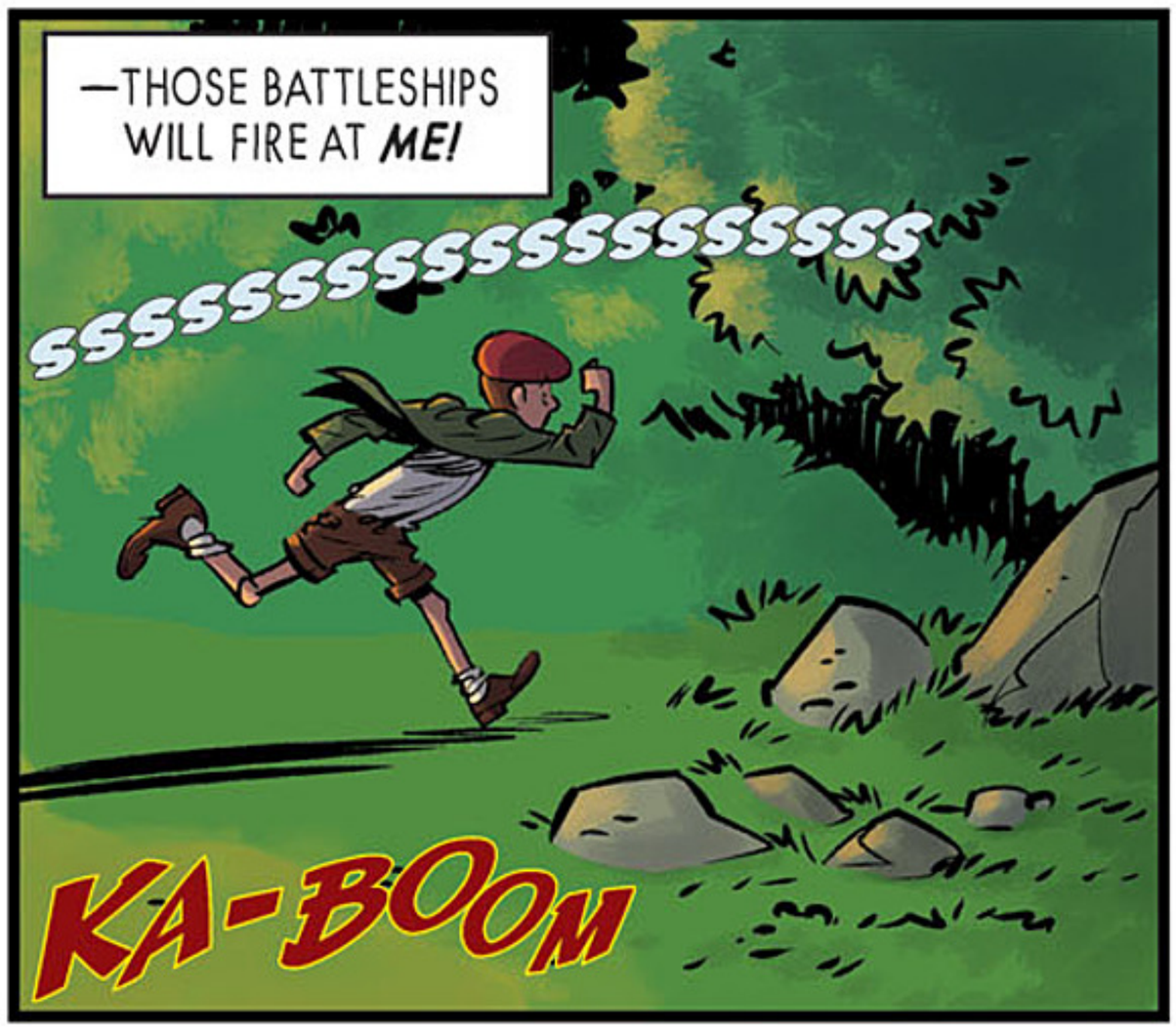
I DON'T KNOW WHERE MR. LEON IS—

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING—


BUT NOW IS MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.

THOSE FLASHES MUST BE THE ALLIED SHIPS!

THEY'RE FIRING AT THE NAZI DEFENSES.
IF I CAN'T FIND SOMEWHERE TO HIDE—
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


—THOSE BATTLESHIPS WILL FIRE AT *ME!*
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
KA-BOOM

THE FOG IS CLEARING.
WHY DID THE GUNS STOP FIRING?

SHIPS—THOUSANDS OF THEM!

WHY AREN'T THE NAZIS ATTACKING?

DID THE BATTLESHIPS DESTROY THEIR MACHINE GUNS AND CANNONS?

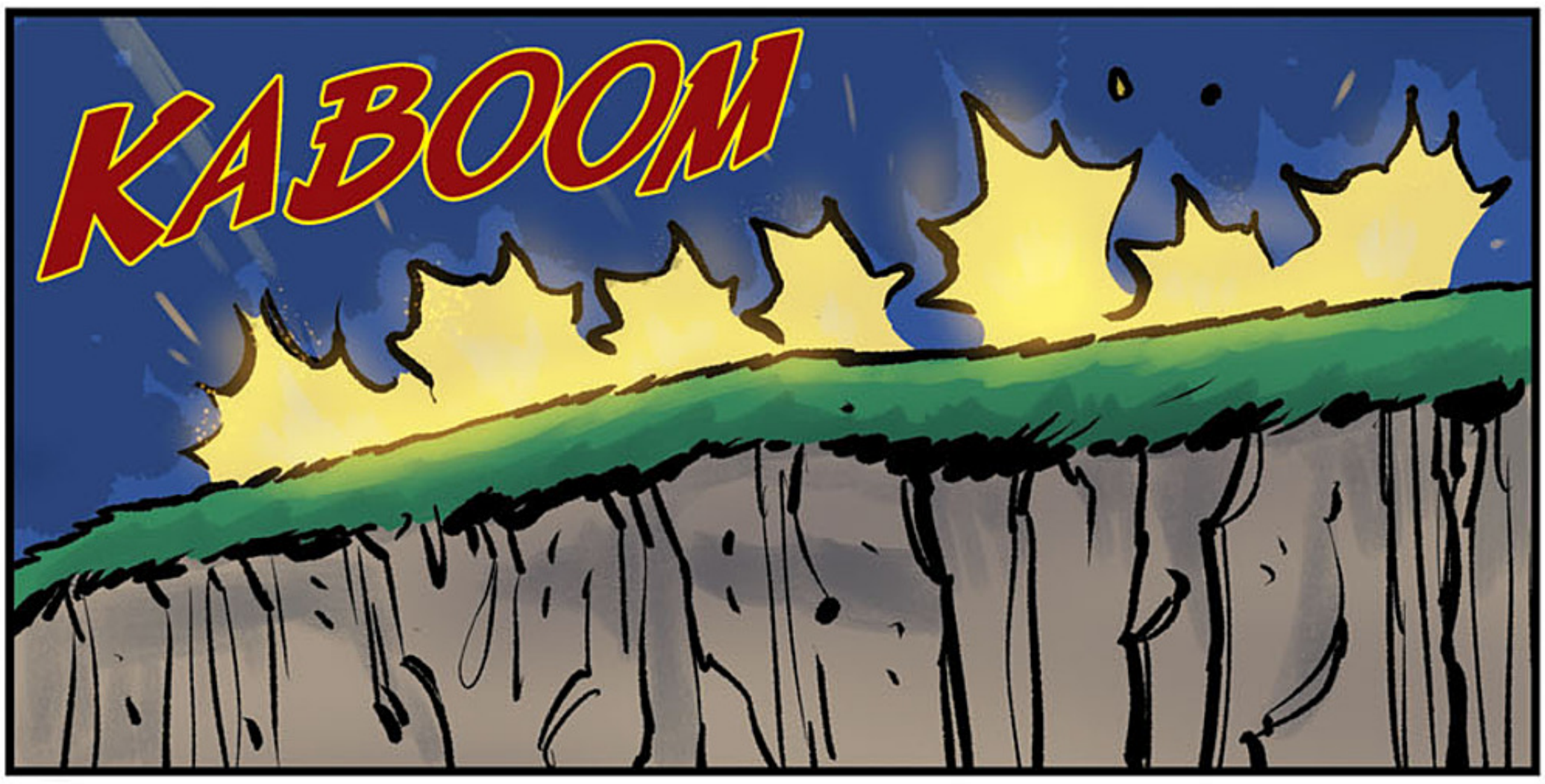
ARE THE NAZIS HUDDLED IN THEIR BUNKERS?

THE GERMANS HAVE LINED THE BEACH WITH CROSSED STEEL BEAMS.

CLANG

THERE ARE MINES BURIED IN THE SAND.

COME ON,
COME ON . . .


KABOOM

RAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT

MEN ARE MOWED DOWN BY THE DOZENS.

BY THE HUNDREDS.

KABOOM

I SEE THE FLAMES.

FFT
FFFF

SOMEHOW, MANY OF THEM MAKE IT TO THE BEACH.

RAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT

CLICK CLICK

RAT TAT TAT TAT BOOM TAT TAT TAT TAT

THERE'S NOWHERE FOR THEM TO HIDE.

KABOOM

MEN CRY OUT FOR HELP.

RAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT

I SNAP.

KABOOM
BOOM

KABOOM
BOOM
BOOM

SON?

SON?
AMERICAN.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

OKAY?
UM . . . OKAY.

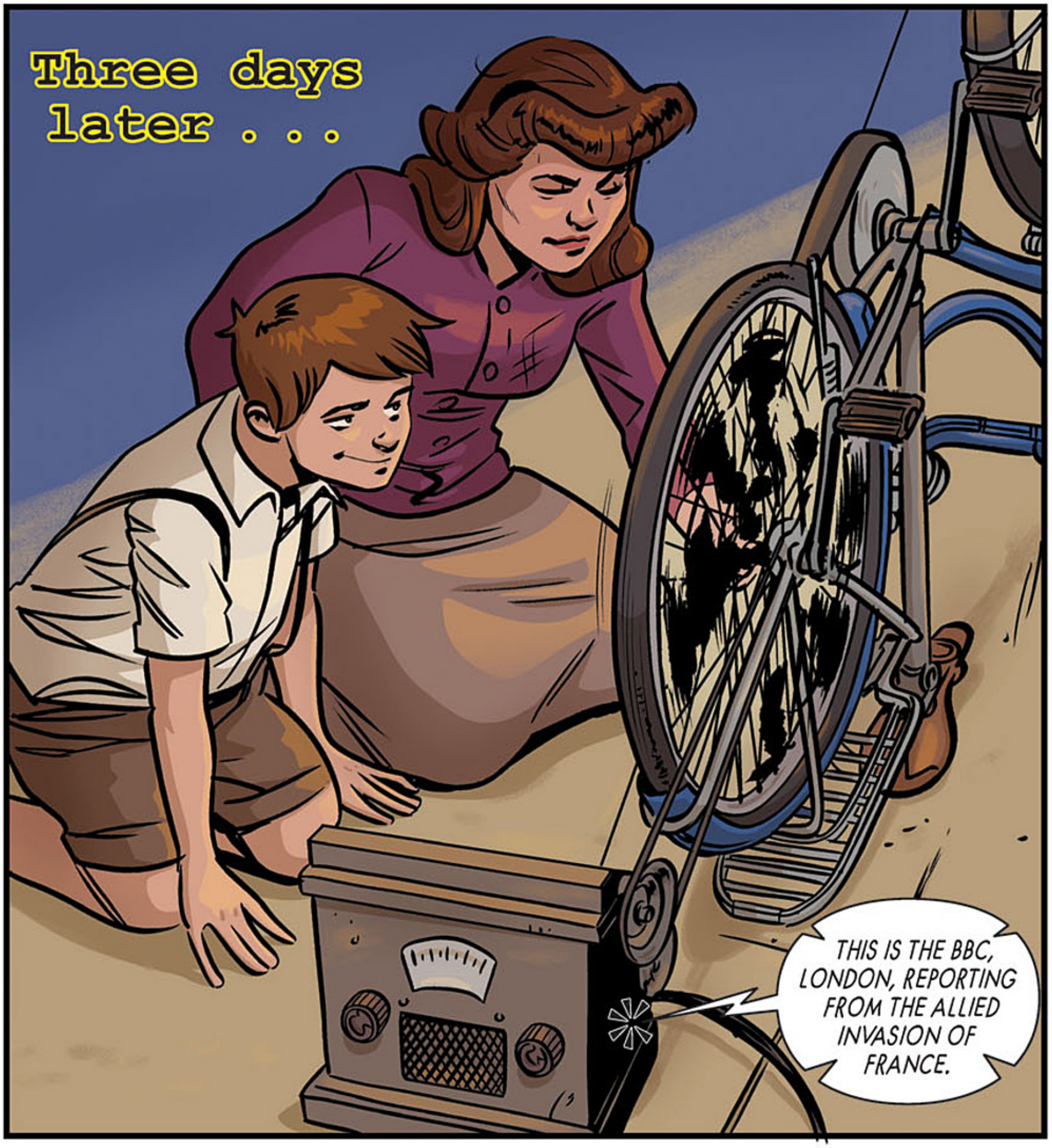
HOW LONG WAS I IN THE HEDGE?

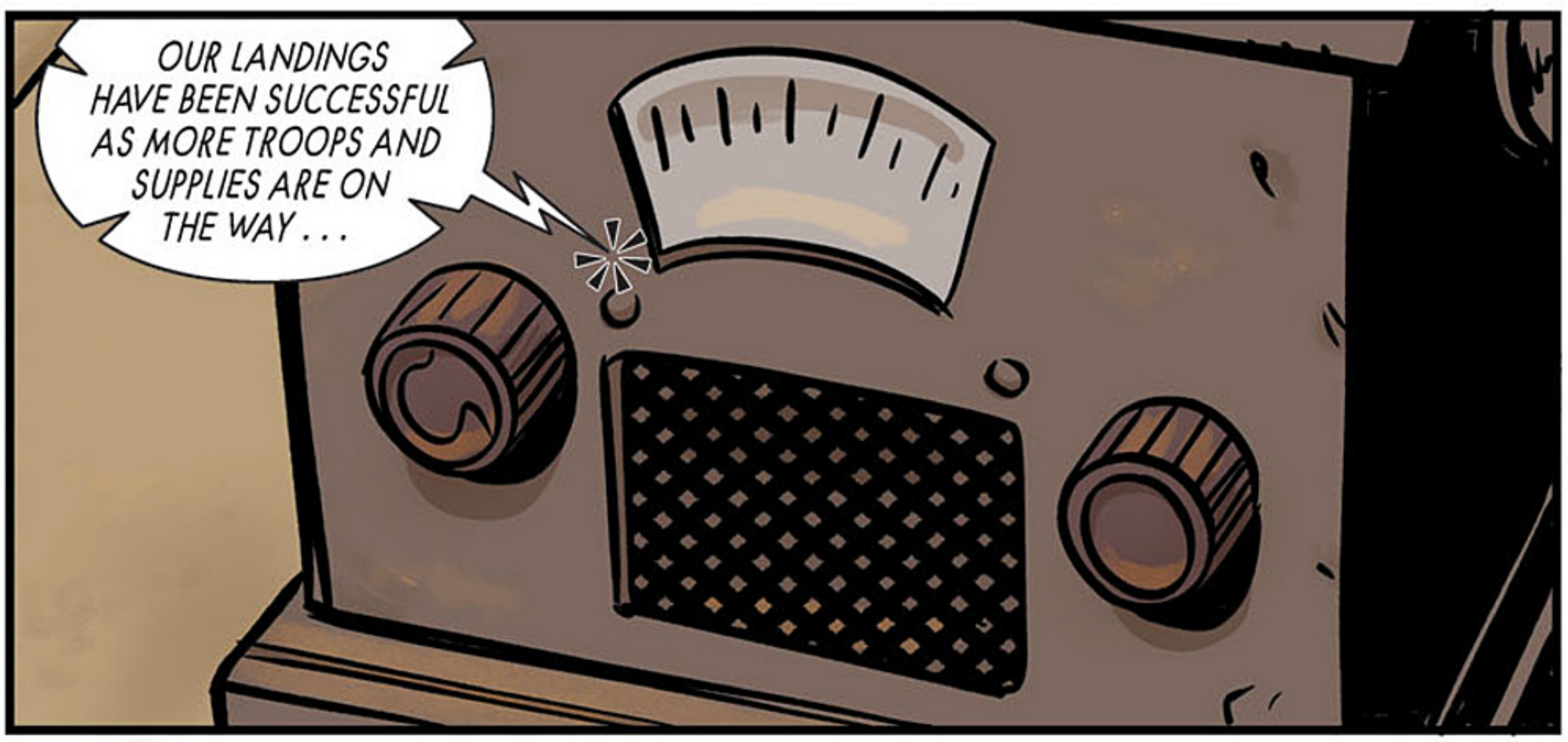
I CAN STILL HEAR THE BATTLE GOING ON. SOMEHOW . . .

THE AMERICANS MADE IT ONTO THE CLIFFS.

I WON'T LOOK AT THE CLIFFS OR THE BEACHES ANYMORE.

I JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO MAMAN.


Three days later . . .
THIS IS THE BBC, LONDON, REPORTING FROM THE ALLIED INVASION OF FRANCE.


OUR LANDINGS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AS MORE TROOPS AND SUPPLIES ARE ON THE WAY . . .

FIGHTING CONTINUES . . .

ZZZZZZZZ

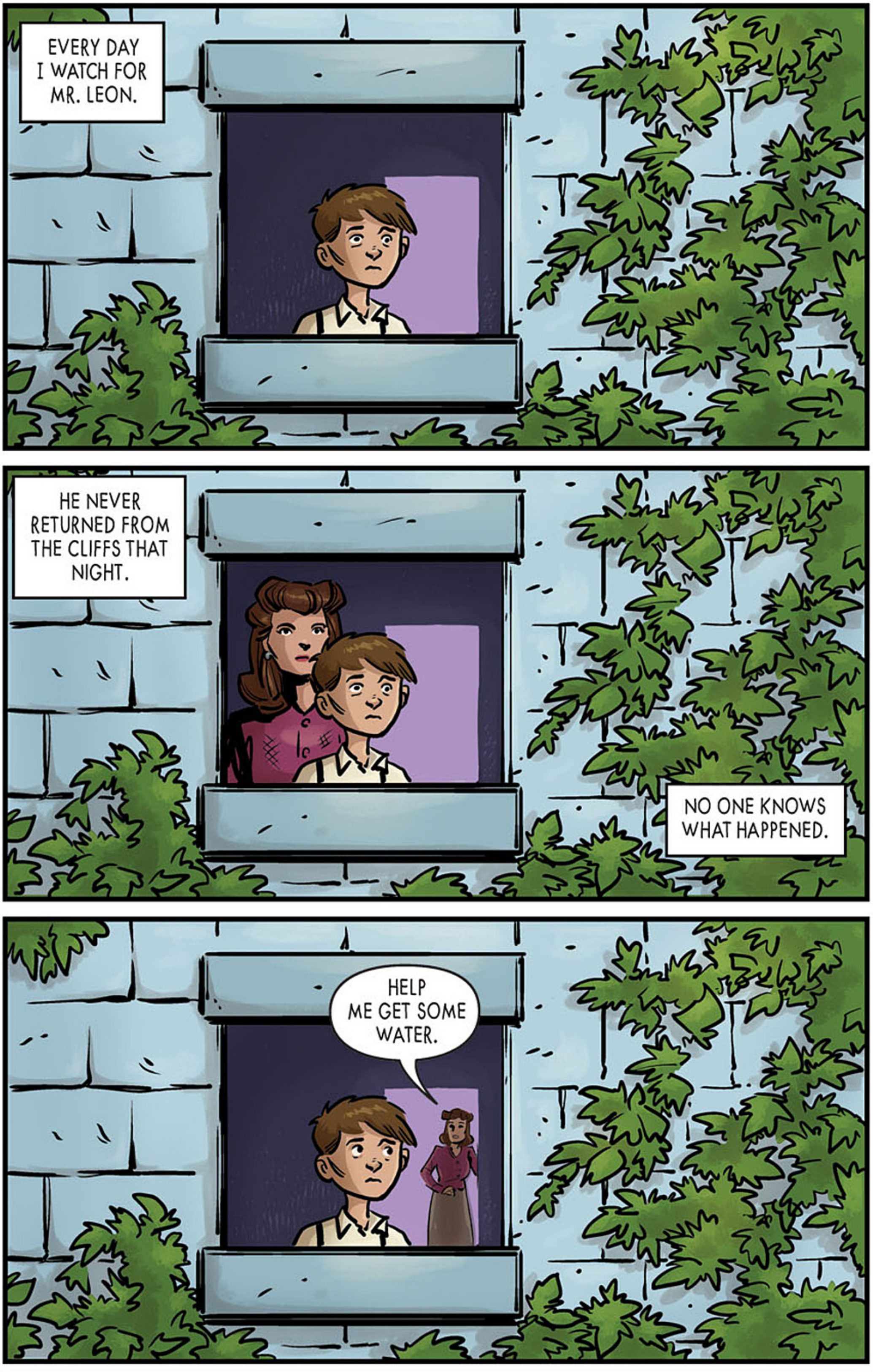
BUT ALLIED FORCES CONTINUE TO TAKE CONTROL . . .

CLICK

I THINK WE NEED A LITTLE QUIET.

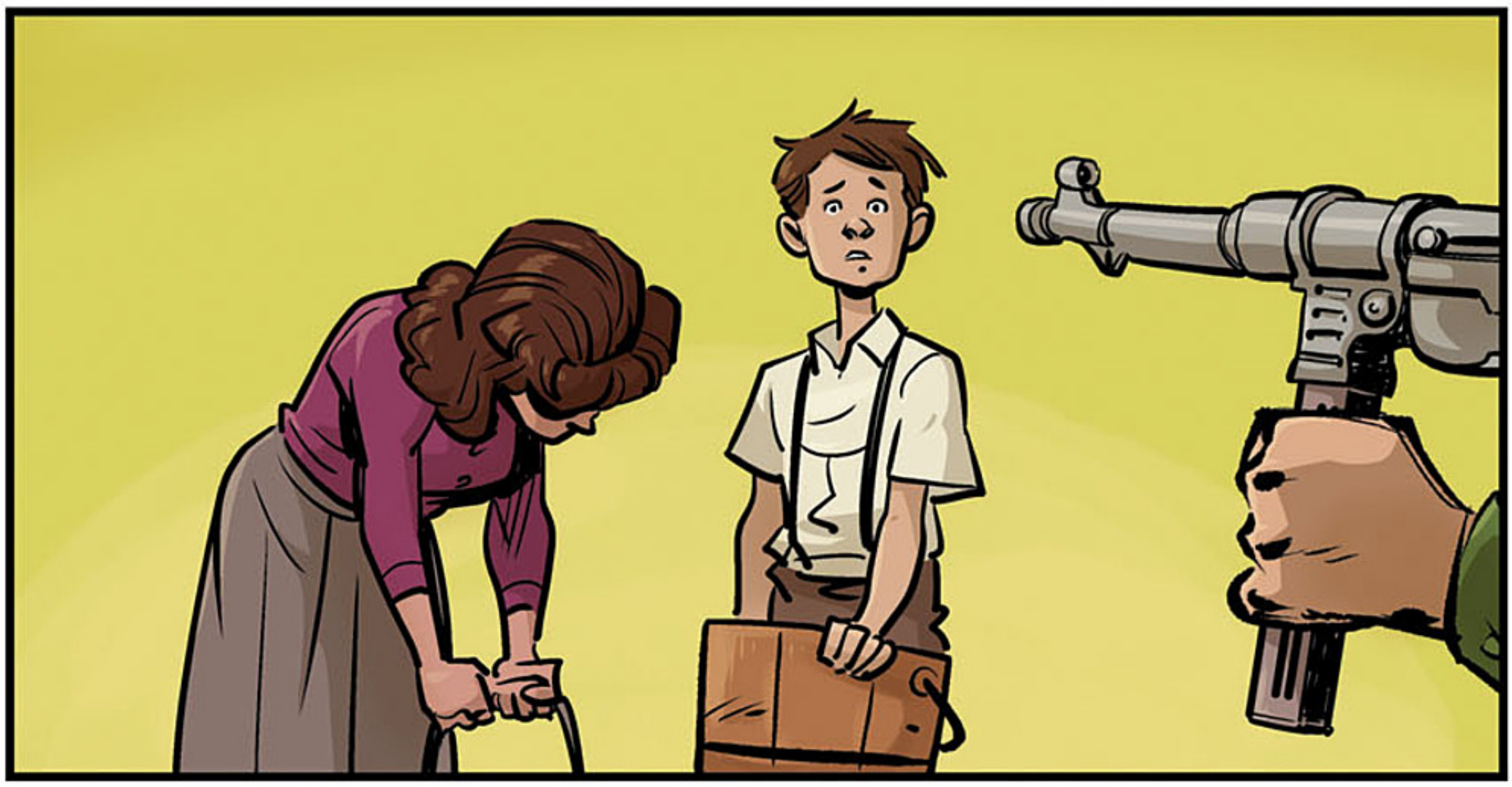
ME TOO.

MY HEAD STILL ACHES FROM WHEN I WAS HIT.


EVERY DAY I WATCH FOR MR. LEON.
HE NEVER RETURNED FROM THE CLIFFS THAT NIGHT.
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED.
HELP ME GET SOME WATER.

SOMEONE'S COMING . . .

HALT! STOP RIGHT THERE.



SEARCH THE CASTLE.

WHERE IS HE?

I'M SORRY, SIR. WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
YOU KNOW WHO.
THE RESISTANCE LEADER WHO ROSE FROM THE DEAD.
MR. LEON!

I DON'T KNOW THE MAN YOU ARE SPEAKING OF.

SMACK

WHACK

AHHH . . .

RUN, PAUL!

BANG BANG BANG

KRA-KOW

THIS WAY!

KRA-KOW
KRA-KOW

VICTOR . . .

DON'T STOP!

WE'RE IN THE TOWER . . .

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

THE ALLIES ARE HERE. THE WAR WILL SOON BE OVER.

HAVEN'T YOU CAUSED ENOUGH MISERY? ENOUGH SUFFERING?
WHEN WILL YOU STOP?

WHOOOSH

SHREEE-EEEEE-EEE

COO-REEK COO-REEK

WHAT IS THIS?!

SHREEE-EEEEE-EEEE

COO-REEK COO-REEK

STOP!

AHHH!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

RUMBLE
RUMBL
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
AIIIIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE

PAUL!
ANNA!

VICTOR!

I HEARD SHOTS IN THE CASTLE...

I'M ALL RIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENED?

COO-ROO

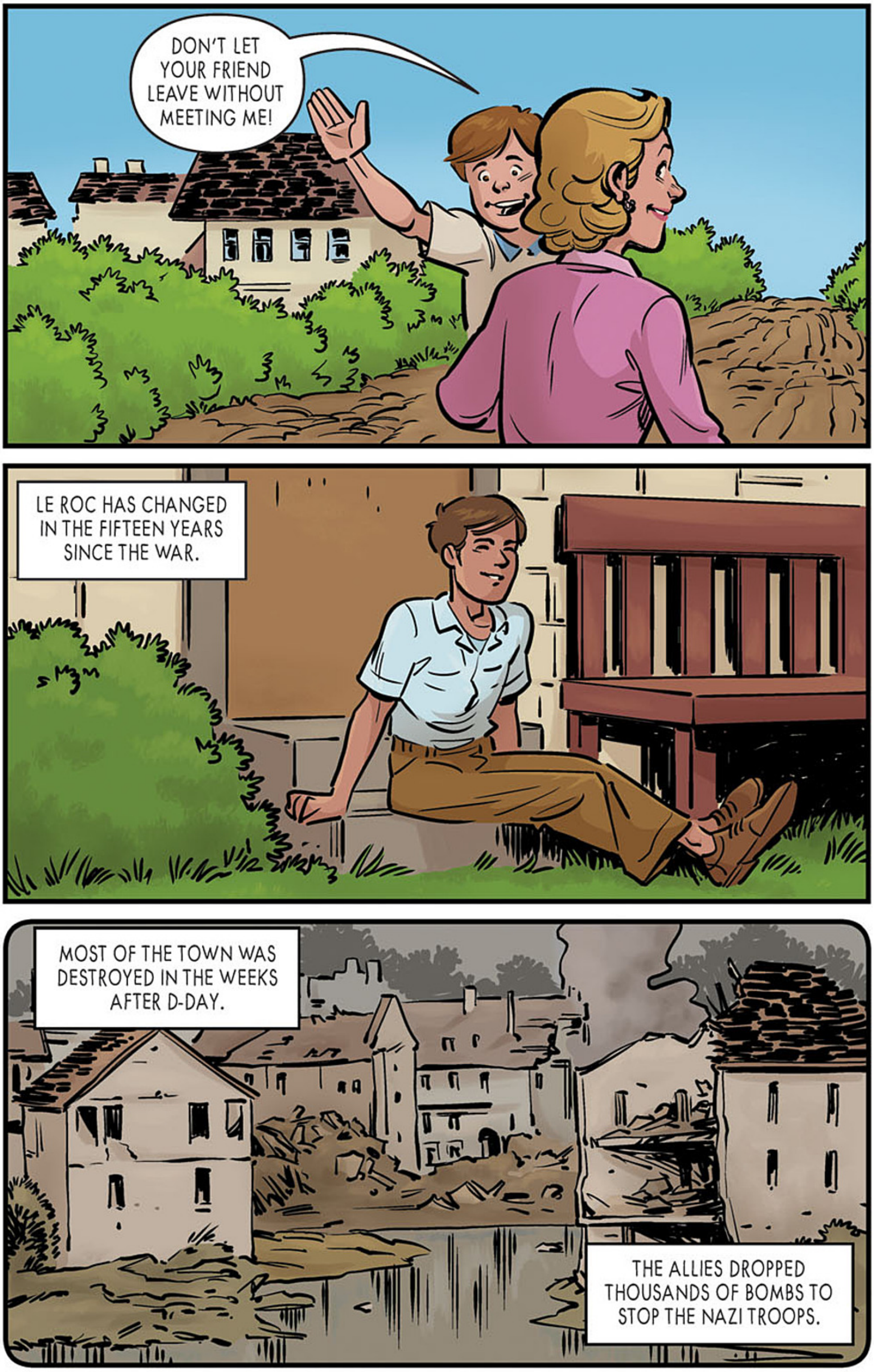
COO-ROO
COO-ROO

Fifteen years later
OCTOBER 3, 1959
Le Roc, France

WHEN'S HE COMING, PAPA? WHEN'S HE COMING?

LET'S GO TO GRANDMA AND GRANDPA'S HOUSE, JACQUES.

PAPA NEEDS SOME TIME ALONE WITH HIS OLD FRIEND.


DON'T LET YOUR FRIEND LEAVE WITHOUT MEETING ME!
LE ROC HAS CHANGED IN THE FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE THE WAR.
MOST OF THE TOWN WAS DESTROYED IN THE WEEKS AFTER D-DAY.
THE ALLIES DROPPED THOUSANDS OF BOMBS TO STOP THE NAZI TROOPS.

TERRIBLE MEMORIES HAUNT ME.

MEN DYING ON THE BEACH. HIDING WITH MAMAN IN THE BASEMENT.

BUT THERE ARE HAPPY MEMORIES TOO.

LIKE WHEN MR. LEON FINALLY RETURNED.

HE WAS INJURED IN AN ALLIED BOMBING.

HE WAS AMAZED TO HEAR ABOUT ELLIE AND STROOP.

IT WAS BETTER THAN ANY STORY ABOUT A DRAGON.

MY SON, JACQUES, LOVES THAT STORY—

BUT HE LOVES HIS GRANDFATHER'S STORY EVEN MORE.

DID YOU REALLY WALK FOR FOUR MONTHS? DID YOUR FEET HURT?

I HAD TO GET HOME TO PAUL AND YOUR GRANDMOTHER.

FOR THEM, I WOULD HAVE WALKED TO THE MOON.

GRANDPA . . . YOU CAN'T WALK TO THE MOON.

PAPA GOT STRONGER AFTER HIS YEARS IN A PRISON CAMP.

I MET VALERIE. WE HAD JACQUES.

I TRIED TO FORGET THE PAST.

BUT THE PAST FOUND ME AGAIN.

"MY OLD FRIEND . . .

"MY NAME IS GERRY GOLDMAN, BUT YOU REMEMBER ME AS GERARD DREY . . ."

LET ME, PAUL.

"MY PARENTS WERE MURDERED BY THE NAZIS.

"THE DAY BEFORE THEY WERE ARRESTED, THEY PUT ME IN THE HANDS OF THE LE ROC RESISTANCE . . ."

MAMAN, MR. LEON, AND THE OTHERS RESCUED GERARD.

I TELL GERARD ABOUT THE CASTLE AND STROOP.

I TELL HIM ABOUT VICTOR AND MY TRIPS TO SEE HIM IN TEXAS AFTER THE WAR.

VALERIE SERVES LUNCH.

MY WIFE AND MY TWO GIRLS.

THEY LOOK LIKE THEIR MOTHER!

ANOTHER MADELEINE, GERRY?

THREE IS PLENTY FOR ME. THANK YOU, VALERIE!

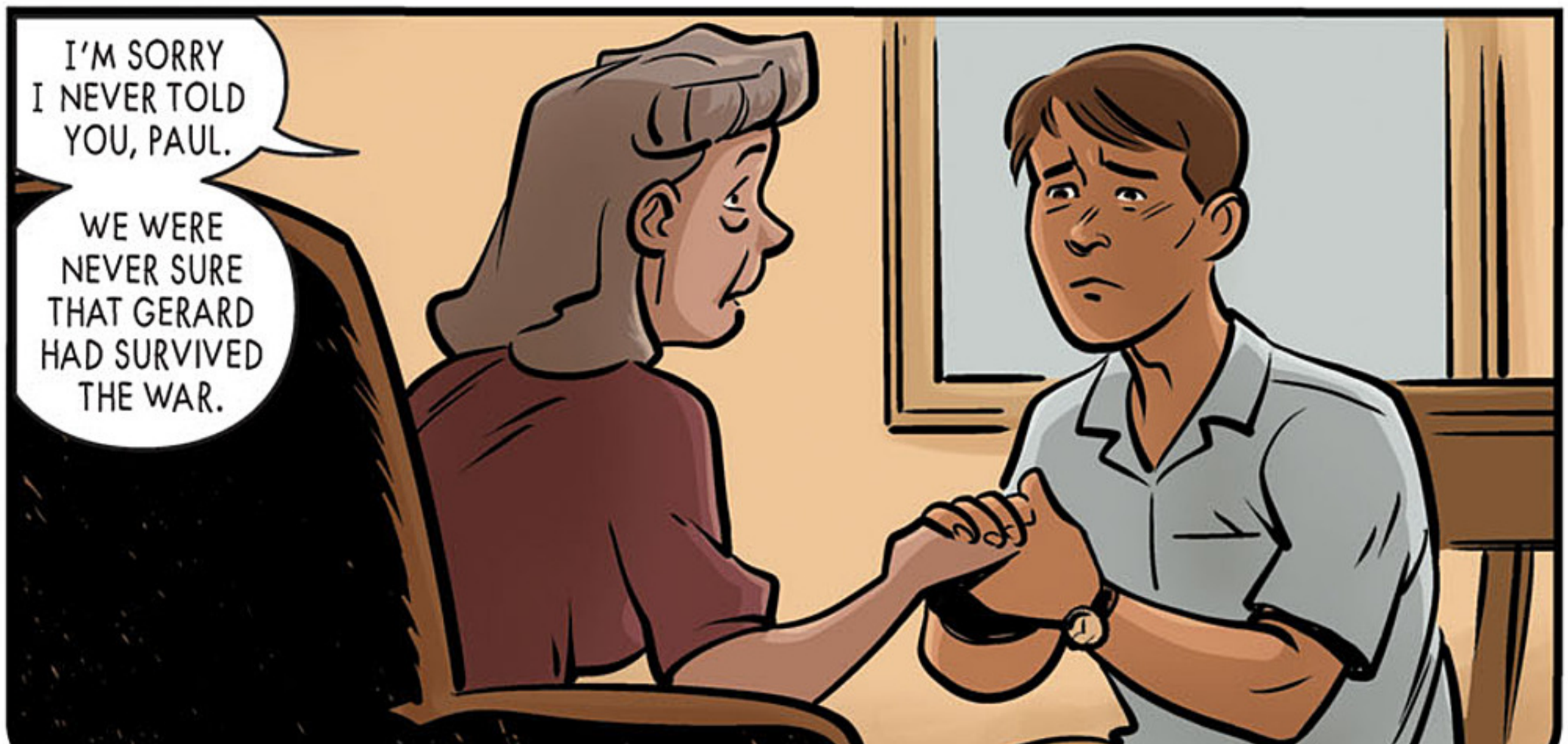
LET'S GO OUTSIDE!

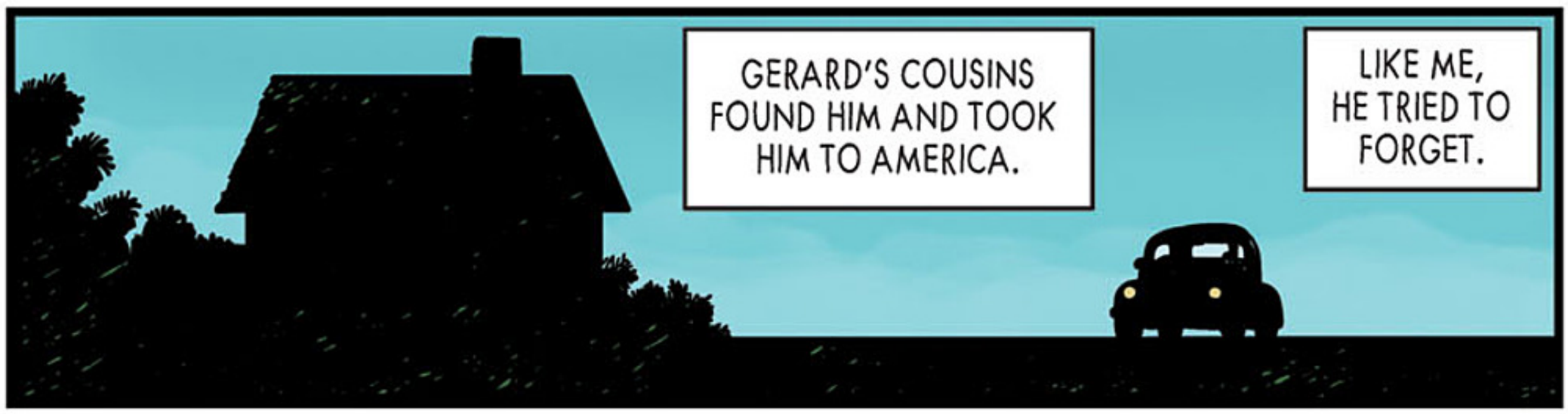
ONE MOMENT— I NEED TO GET SOMETHING.

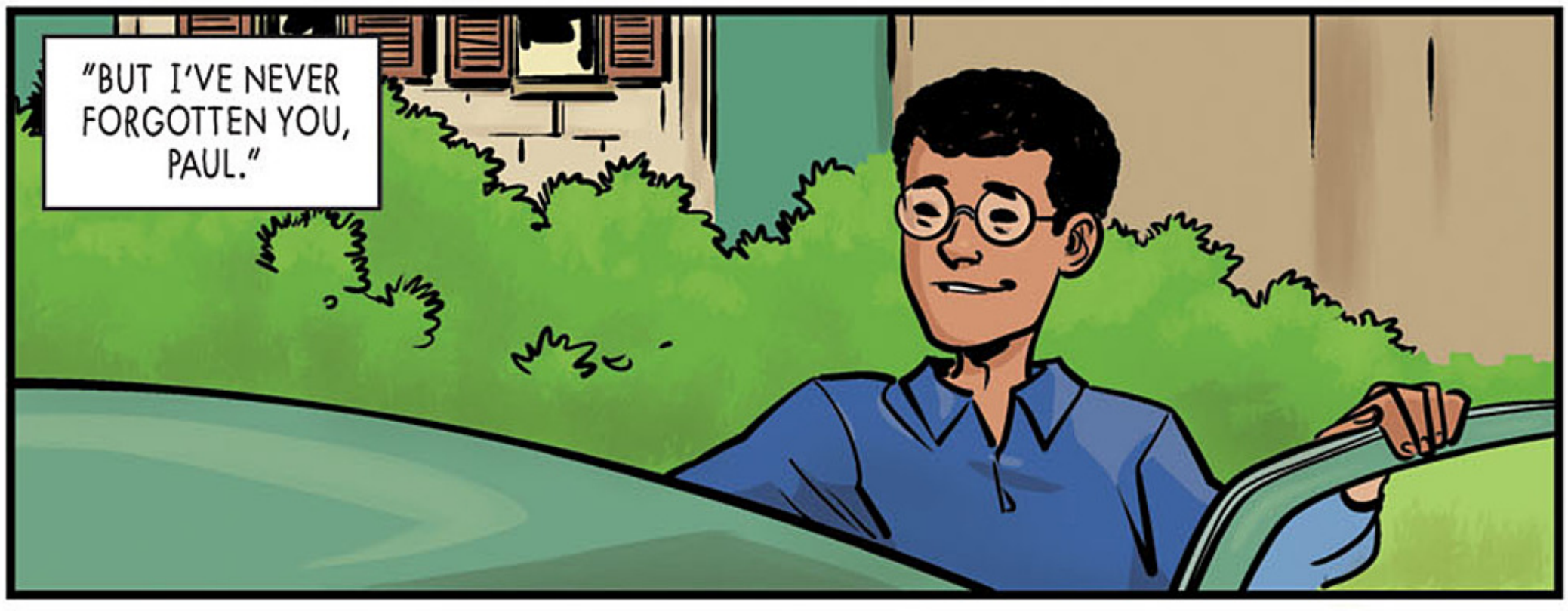
THE OLD BROWN SOCCER BALL.

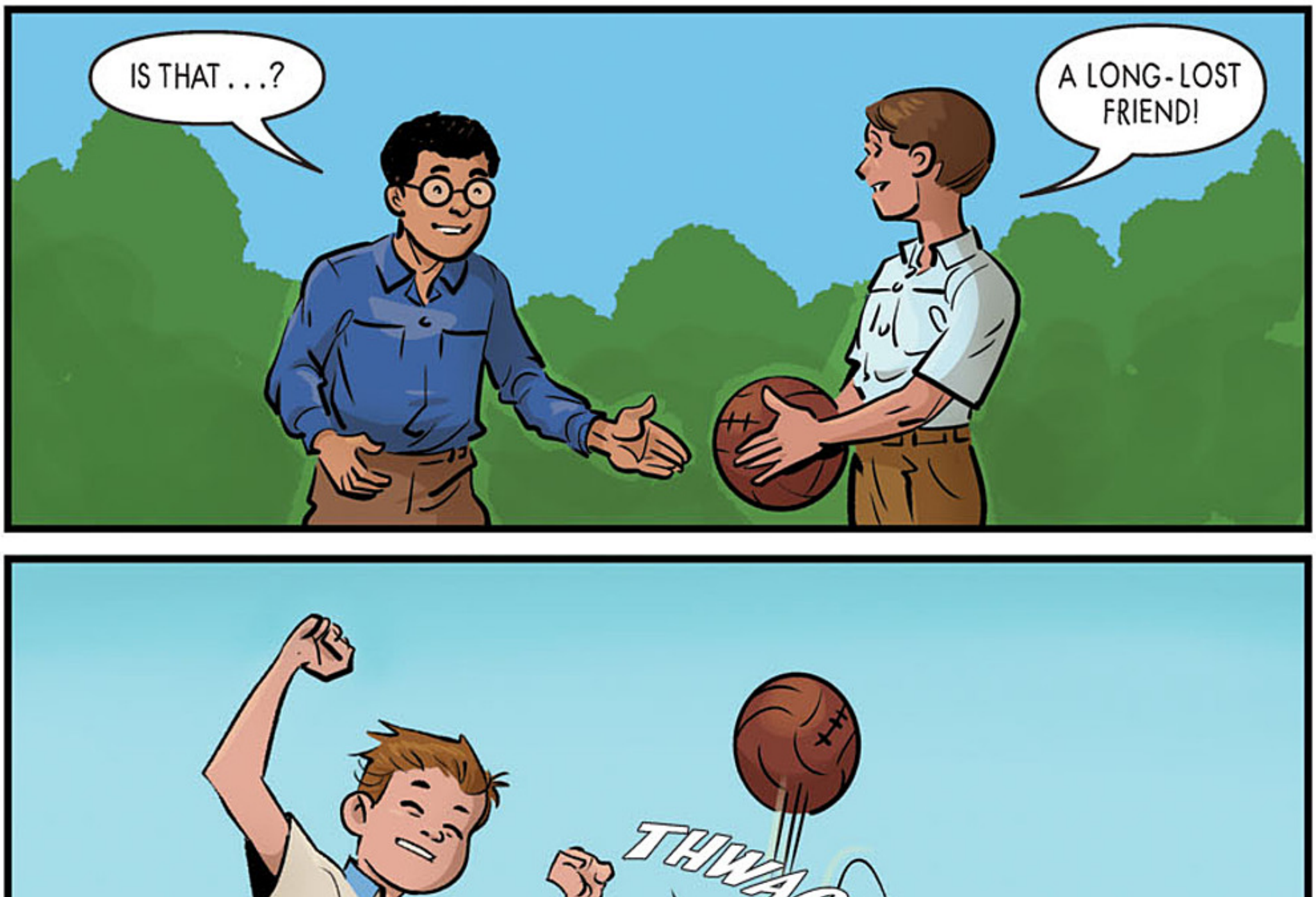
BORIS WAS IN THE RESISTANCE TOO.

THEY HID HIM AND THREE OTHER JEWISH CHILDREN UNTIL THEY COULD GET THEM TO A VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS.


I'M SORRY I NEVER TOLD YOU, PAUL.
WE WERE NEVER SURE THAT GERARD HAD SURVIVED THE WAR.

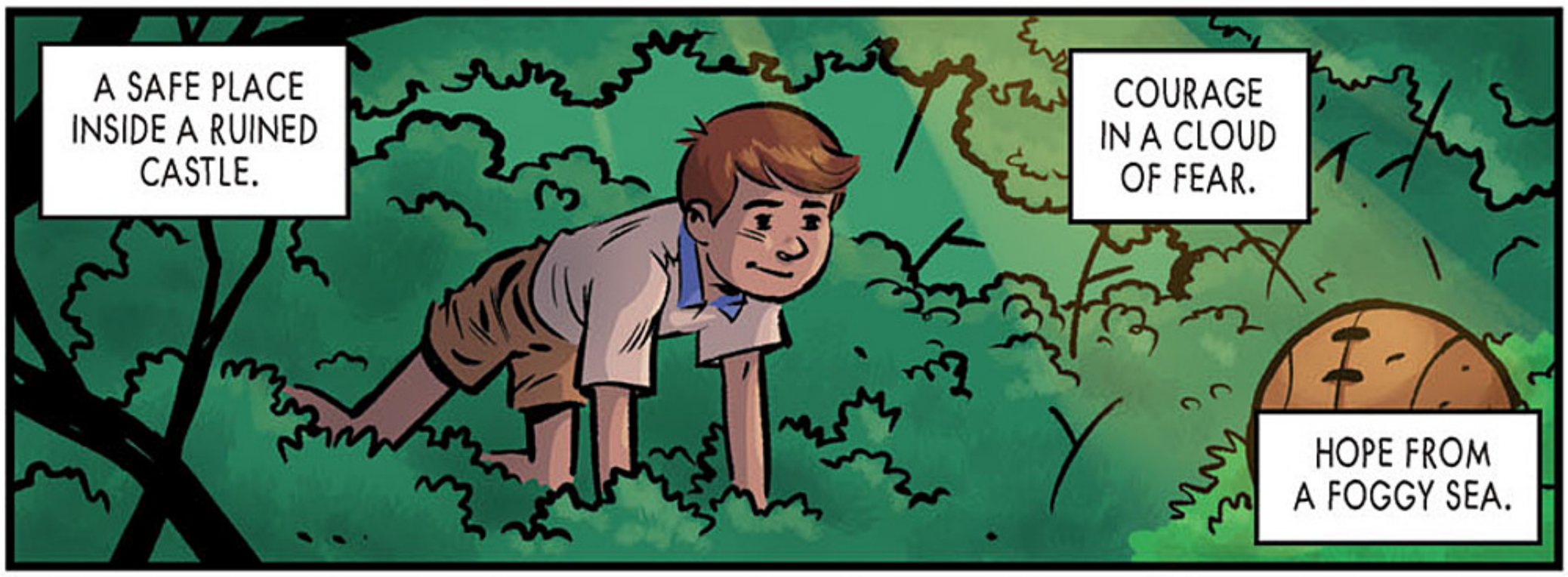

GERARD'S COUSINS FOUND HIM AND TOOK HIM TO AMERICA.
LIKE ME, HE TRIED TO FORGET.


"BUT I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN YOU, PAUL."


IS THAT . . .?
A LONG-LOST FRIEND!
THWACK

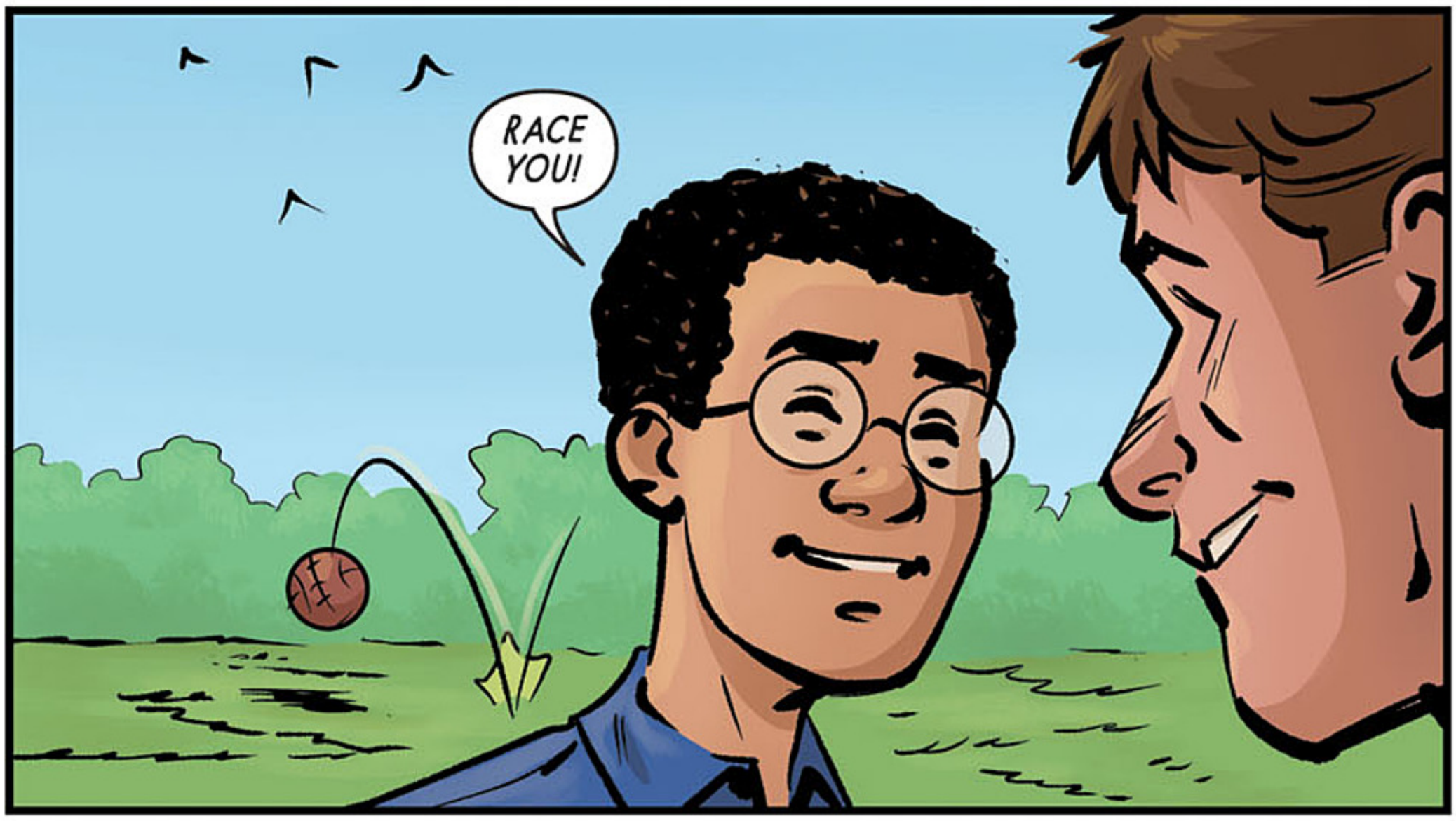
I LOST IT!
NO, YOU DIDN'T . . .

MANY THINGS CAN BE FOUND—
IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.


A SAFE PLACE INSIDE A RUINED CASTLE.
COURAGE IN A CLOUD OF FEAR.
HOPE FROM A FOGGY SEA.

I FOUND IT!

THWACK


RACE YOU!

TURN THE PAGE
TO READ MORE ABOUT
THE REAL-LIFE EVENTS OF

THE BATTLE OF D-DAY, 1944

Dear Readers,

When I went to Normandy, I visited a beach where thousands of soldiers landed on D-Day. As I stood on the white sand, gazing out at the calm, sparkling ocean, it was almost impossible to imagine that this was the same blood-soaked beach—code-named Omaha—that I had been learning about as I researched this book. More than 3,000 men were hurt or killed on that beach. Thinking about all of them broke my heart.

Writing about D-Day was often difficult, because it's the story of one of the biggest, most complicated, and tragic events in history: World War II. I based all of Paul's experiences on those of real people I discovered in my research: Finding a paratrooper in a tree. Hiding an Allied soldier. Having a mom in the resistance. Coping with the fear that a Jewish friend might be taken in the night. Having a very creepy castle in your town.

I even met a pigeon during my trip. As I was working outside on a little terrace, this fat pigeon kept coming to visit me—and I remembered that pigeons were a HUGE part of World War II. The Allies used 250,000 pigeons to carry messages! Ellie enabled me to add a little bit of lightness to the dark story of war, Nazis, and the resistance.

I hope my one small story makes you hungry to keep learning about it on your own. Read on to hear more about it with Paul, Maman, Mr. Leon, Sgt. Lopez, and Mrs. Bernard to guide you.

Au revoir (that's "good-bye" in French),

Karen Kossakis

The pigeon that inspired the character of Ellie

Here I am visiting with D-Day survivor Denise Voydie, age 97, and friends, in the village of Graignes, France.

WORLD WAR II BEFORE D-DAY

GERMANY'S LEADER, **ADOLF HITLER**, AND THE NAZIS WANTED GERMANS TO CONQUER EUROPE—AND THE WORLD.

ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1939, GERMAN TROOPS INVADED POLAND. THEN BRITAIN AND FRANCE DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY. THAT WAS THE START OF **WORLD WAR II**, WHICH EVENTUALLY AFFECTED ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

NAZI IDEAS WERE FULL OF HATRED AND LIES. HITLER BLAMED JEWISH PEOPLE AND OTHER MINORITY GROUPS FOR THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS.

THE **ALLIES** WERE A GROUP OF NATIONS—INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN, RUSSIA, AND CANADA—THAT WORKED TOGETHER TO FIGHT GERMANY AND ITS SUPPORTERS.

D-DAY WAS PART OF A LARGER ALLIED MISSION TO FREE EUROPE FROM THE NAZIS.

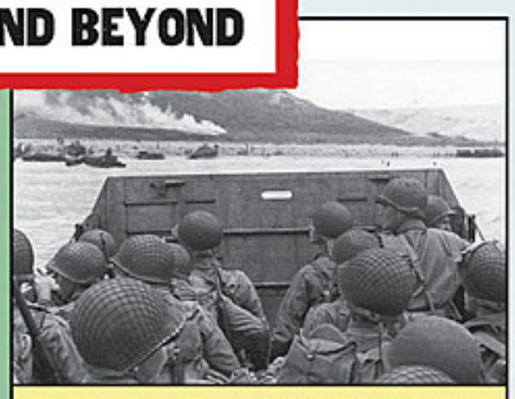
PLANNING FOR D-DAY

D-DAY WAS DOOMED TO FAIL UNLESS THE GERMANS WERE **TAKEN BY SURPRISE**. DURING THE YEAR OF PLANNING, THE ORGANIZERS KEPT THE TIME AND LOCATION OF THE INVASION A TOTAL **SECRET**.

THE ALLIES ALSO **TRICKED** THE NAZIS. THEY MADE THE GERMANS BELIEVE THAT THE INVASION WAS GOING TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE BY CREATING FAKE CODED RADIO MESSAGES AND EVEN FAKE AIRPLANES AND BLOW-UP RUBBER TANKS. ALL THE SECRECY AND TRICKS WORKED.

THE INVASION AND BEYOND

THE D-DAY INVASION DID NOT END WORLD WAR II, BUT IT WAS A HUGE STEP THAT HELPED THE ALLIES ON THEIR **PATH TO VICTORY**.



American troops approach Normandy in a landing craft.

People in Normandy welcoming Allied troops in the weeks after D-Day.

IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING D-DAY, THE ALLIES POURED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TROOPS, WEAPONS, TANKS, AND SUPPLIES INTO EUROPE.

THE FRENCH PEOPLE SUFFERED TERRIBLY IN THE ALLIED BOMBINGS THAT FOLLOWED D-DAY. BUT BY SEPTEMBER 1944, MOST OF FRANCE WAS FREE FROM THE NAZIS, AND MOST FRENCH PEOPLE FELT ENORMOUS **GRATITUDE** TOWARD THE ALLIES.

THE **FIGHTING AND KILLING** WENT ON AND ON OUTSIDE OF FRANCE, IN EUROPE AND WESTERN RUSSIA.

GERMANY WASN'T THE ALLIES' ONLY ENEMY. JAPAN INVADED COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN. THERE WERE ALSO BATTLES IN NORTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA.

US planes drop bombs on Germany during the war.

THE WAR FINALLY ENDED IN SEPTEMBER 1945. MORE THAN **60 MILLION PEOPLE DIED** IN BATTLES AND FROM DISEASES CONNECTED TO THE HARDSHIPS OF WAR.

SOME VEHICLES USED IN THE D-DAY INVASION

BRITISH HORSA GLIDER

THESE ENGINELESS PLANES WERE TOWED ACROSS THE OCEAN, THEN WERE RELEASED **NOISELESSLY** IN NORMANDY. THEY CARRIED TROOPS, WEAPONS, TRUCKS, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT.

DUKW

PART TRUCK, PART BOAT, THESE VEHICLES COULD **FLOAT** THROUGH THE WATER AND **DRIVE** UP ONTO SHORE.

AMERICAN JEEP

THE JEEP YOU KNOW TODAY WAS FIRST CREATED FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS DURING WORLD WAR II TO DRIVE ON **ROUGH** TERRAIN.

SPITFIRE

THE MOST COMMON ALLIED **FIGHTER** AIRPLANE OF WORLD WAR II

US LANDING CRAFT, VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL

THERE WERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LANDING CRAFT BUILT FOR **D-DAY**. SOME CARRIED TANKS. THIS ONE CARRIED TROOPS AND SMALLER VEHICLES.

MOTORCYCLE

MOTORCYCLES WERE USED BY BOTH THE **NAZIS** AND THE **ALLIES** THROUGHOUT THE WAR.

TIMELINE OF D-DAY

IN ONE DAY, APPROXIMATELY **150,000 SOLDIERS** CROSSED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL IN SHIPS AND PLANES TO ATTACK OVER 50,000 GERMAN TROOPS IN NORMANDY, AN AREA IN THE NORTHWEST OF FRANCE.

HERE ARE THE KEY EVENTS OF JUNE 5–6, 1944.

JUNE 5

4:00 A.M. — **PLANS BECOME FINAL**

United States general Dwight D. Eisenhower is in charge of the invasion. The weather is **STORMY**, but Eisenhower decides that the invasion will begin the next morning during a short break in the bad weather.

6:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. — **SHIPS GATHER IN THE SEA**

Nearly **7,000 SHIPS**, packed with troops, weapons, tanks, and supplies, all gather at Area Z, a huge meeting place in the middle of the English Channel.

10:00 P.M. — **PARATROOPERS BOARD PLANES**

13,100 American paratroopers board their transport planes at bases across England. Each man carries more than **100 POUNDS** of equipment.

11:15 P.M. — **THE RESISTANCE IS CALLED**

A powerful radio broadcaster in London, the BBC, sends out a **CODED MESSAGE** to members of resistance groups. These are French people who risked torture and death to secretly work against the Nazis. The resistance groups begin their sabotage to help keep more German soldiers and equipment away from the beaches at Normandy.

JUNE 6

12:02 A.M. — **FIRST PARATROOPERS ARRIVE**

Allied paratroopers jump into the darkness **BEHIND ENEMY LINES.** Their job is to block German soldiers and equipment, and to build bridges over two important rivers.

3:00 A.M. — **HITLER SLEEPS**

The German military receives reports of a possible Allied invasion at Normandy. But leaders don't tell Adolf Hitler because they are too **AFRAID** of being wrong. Hitler goes to bed, and he sleeps for nine hours!

4:00 A.M. — **GLIDERS LAND**

Gliders were very light planes, full of equipment and soldiers. They were towed by a regular plane into the air, then released to land **SILENTLY AND SECRETLY.**

5:50 A.M. — **BATTLESHIPS BLAST THE COAST**

American and British battleships start **BLASTING** at the German guns on the cliffs overlooking Omaha Beach. Similar attacks take place at the other four D-Day landing beaches.

6:30 A.M.

ALLIED TROOPS HIT THE BEACH

Allied troops land on the **FIVE NORMANDY BEACHES.** Each beach had its own code name: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.

The Americans arrive first on Utah and Omaha at 6:30 a.m. Over the next ninety minutes, tens of thousands of British and Canadian soldiers land on Gold, Juno, and Sword Beaches.

9:32 A.M.

THE NEWS IS OUT

England's BBC broadcasts a clear **MESSAGE** to Great Britain and the world: "Allied naval forces . . . began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. (NOON)

GERMANY'S GENERALS PANIC

German military commanders panic as Hitler sleeps. Finally, at noon, he is awakened. He does not understand the **SIZE AND POWER** of the Allied invasion.

12:00 NOON TO THE MORNING OF JUNE 7

D-DAY MISSION IS COMPLETE

The mission is a success, though the cost is high. Approximately **4,400 ALLIED SOLDIERS** die during the invasion. More than 10,000 are injured. Ninety-one percent of Allied troops make it off the beaches on June 6.

Injured soldiers after the invasion of Omaha Beach

FURTHER READING

Here are some of my favorite books for kids about the battle of D-Day and the French Resistance:

Atkinson, Rick. *D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy, 1944 [The Young Readers Adaptation]*. New York: Square Fish, 2015.

Jablonski, Carla & Leland Purvis. *Resistance*. New York: First Second, 2010.

Messner, Kate. *Ranger in Time: D-Day: Battle on the Beach*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2018.

Nielsen, Jennifer. *Resistance*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018.

MORE I SURVIVED BOOKS SET DURING WORLD WAR II

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Ryan, Cornelius. *The Longest Day: The Classic Epic of D-Day*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994.

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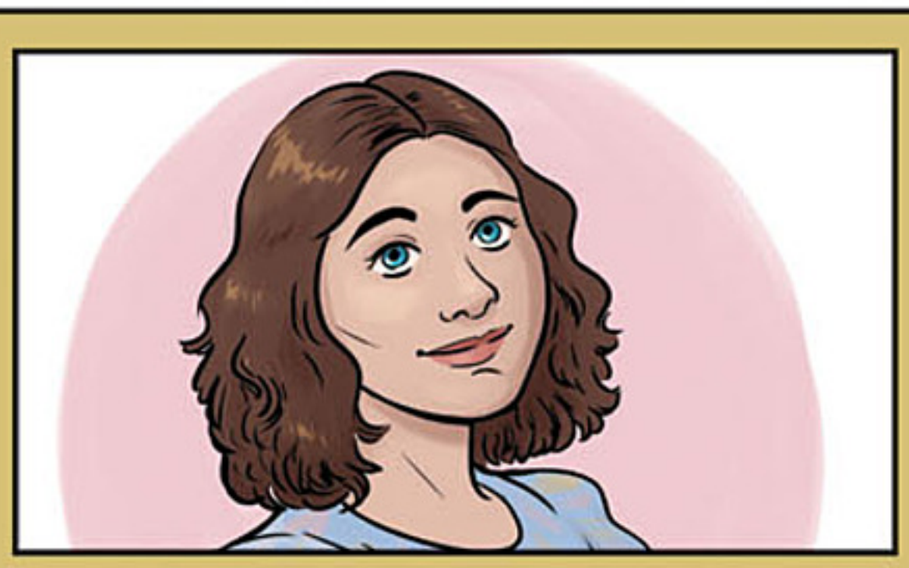
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING I SURVIVED SERIES TELLS STORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH IN THE MIDST OF UNIMAGINABLE DISASTERS AND TIMES OF TURMOIL. LAUREN HAS BROUGHT HER SIGNATURE WARMTH, INTEGRITY, AND EXHAUSTIVE RESEARCH TO TOPICS SUCH AS THE BATTLE OF D-DAY, THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, HURRICANE KATRINA, THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR, AND OTHER WORLD EVENTS. LAUREN LIVES IN CONNECTICUT WITH HER FAMILY, AND CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT LAURENTARSHIS.COM.

GEORGIA BALL

HAS WRITTEN COMICS FOR MANY OF HER FAVORITE CHILDHOOD CHARACTERS, INCLUDING STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE, TRANSFORMERS, LITTLEST PET SHOP, MY LITTLE PONY, AND THE DISNEY PRINCESSES. IN ADDITION TO ADAPTING LAUREN TARSHIS'S I SURVIVED SERIES TO GRAPHIC NOVELS, GEORGIA WRITES ABOUT HISTORICAL EVENTS SUCH AS THE WORLD WAR II BATTLES OF KURSK AND GUADALCANAL. GEORGIA LIVES WITH HER HUSBAND, DAUGHTER, AND RAMBUNCTIOUS PETS IN FLORIDA. VISIT HER ONLINE AT GEORGIABALLAUTHOR.COM.

BRIAN CHURILLA

IS A COMIC BOOK WRITER AND ARTIST WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO NEARLY 20 GRAPHIC NOVELS AND OTHER WORKS. VISIT HIM ONLINE AT BRIANCHURILLA.COM.



CASSIE ANDERSON

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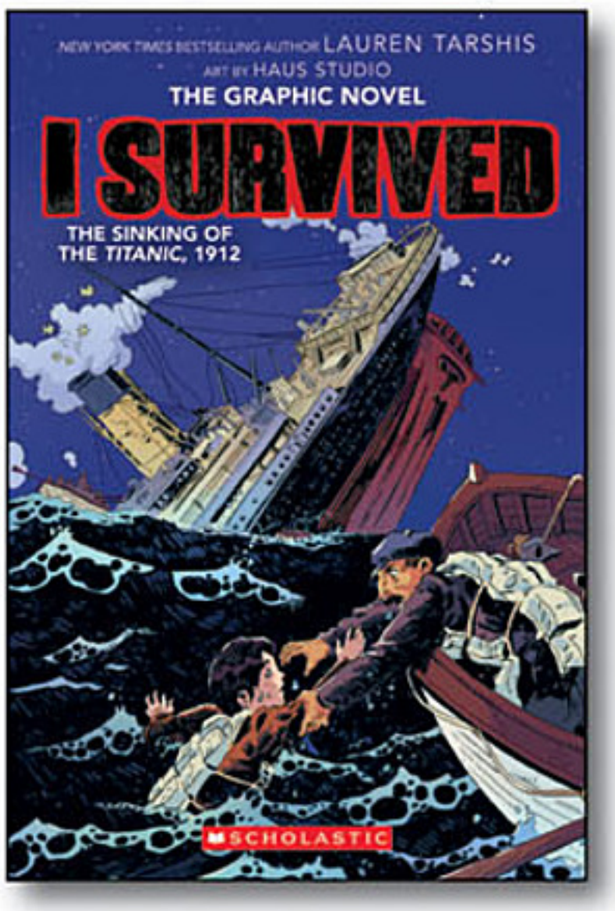
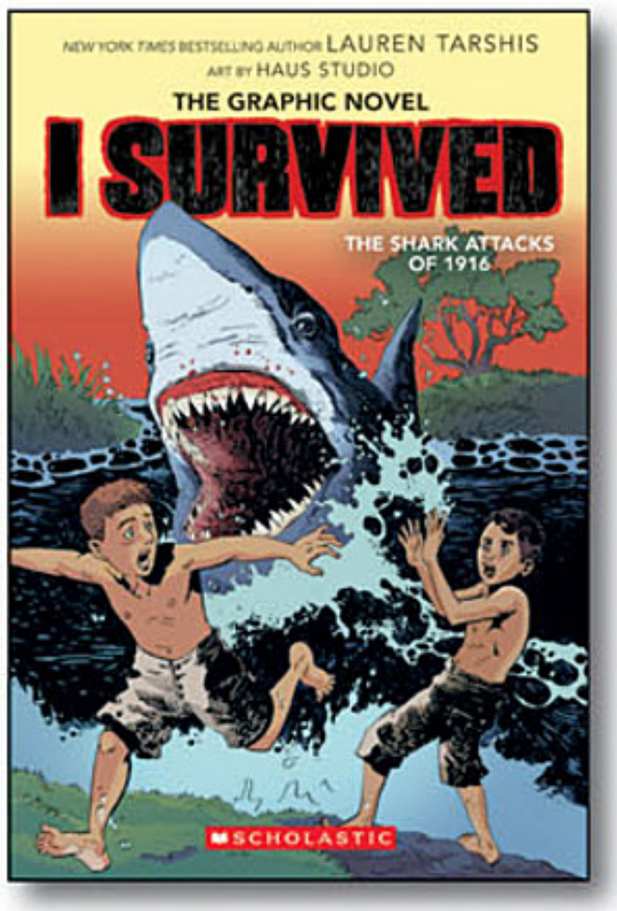
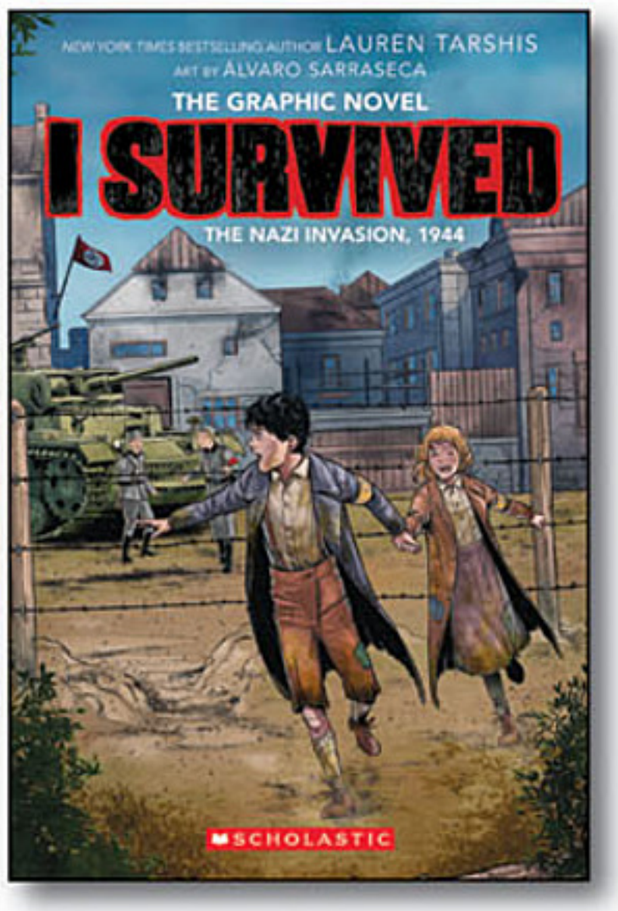
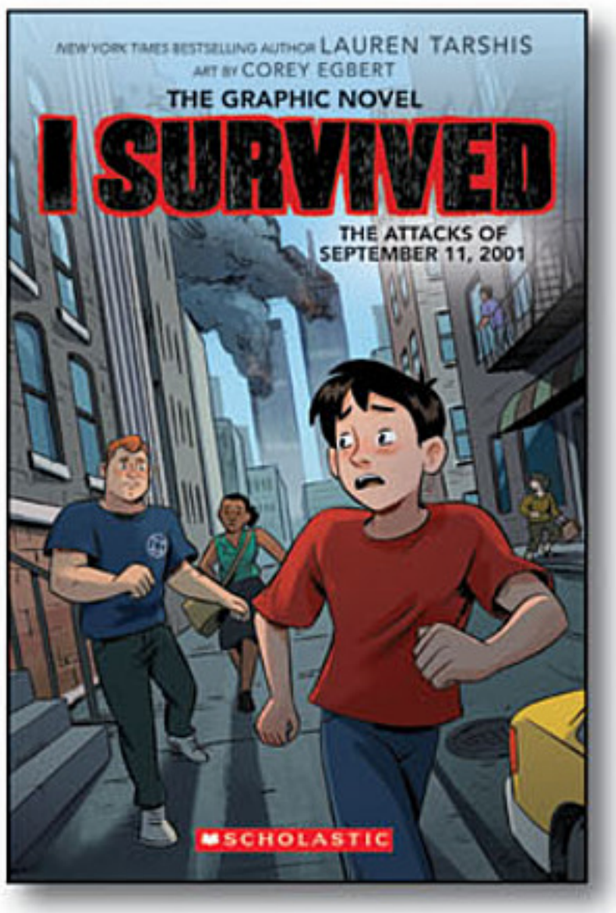
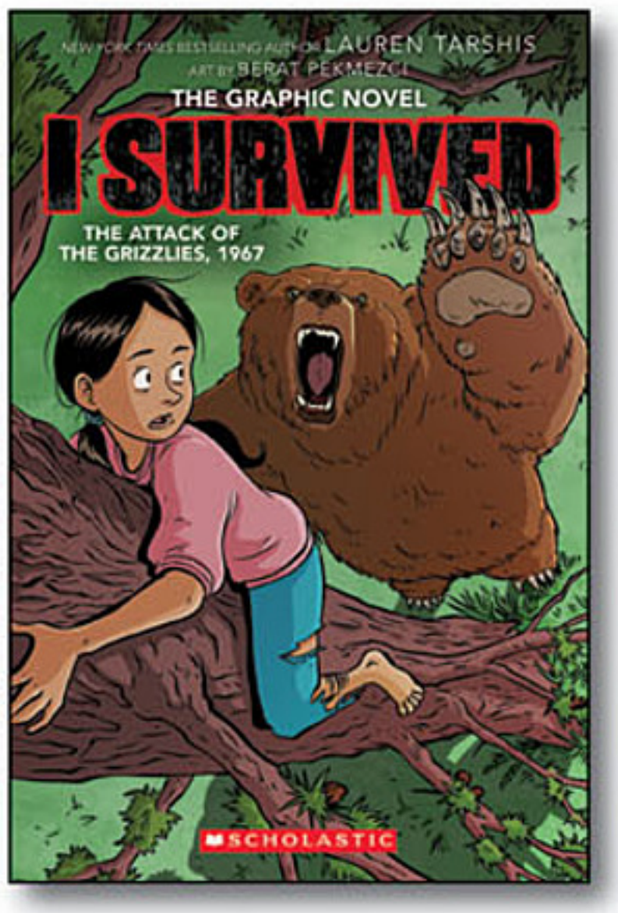
HOW MANY I SURVIVED GRAPHIC NOVELS HAVE YOU READ?

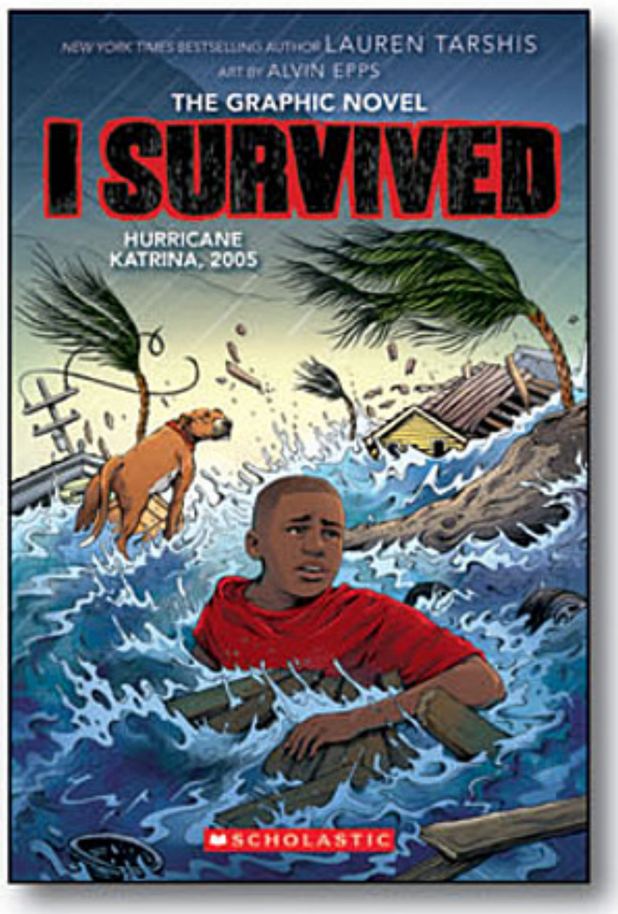


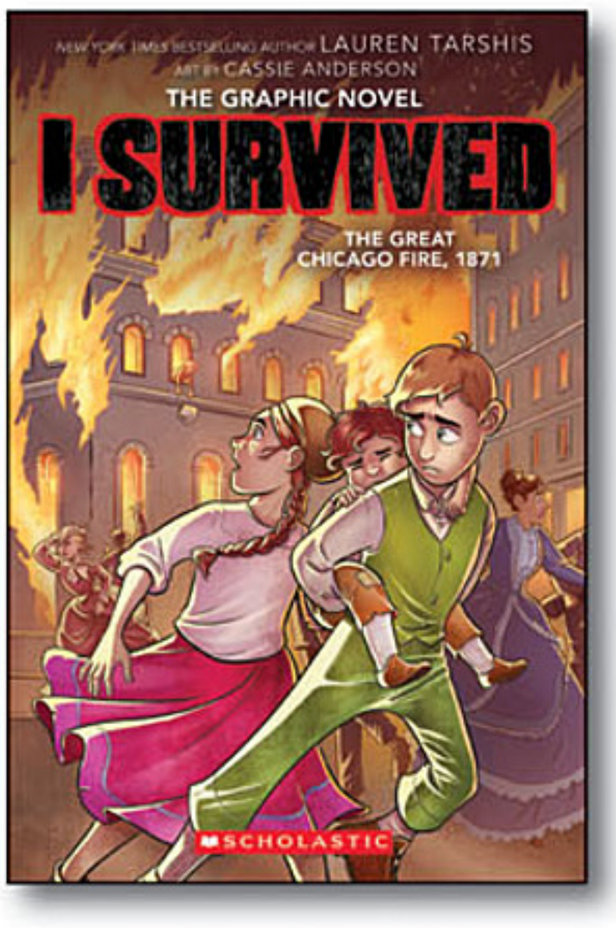


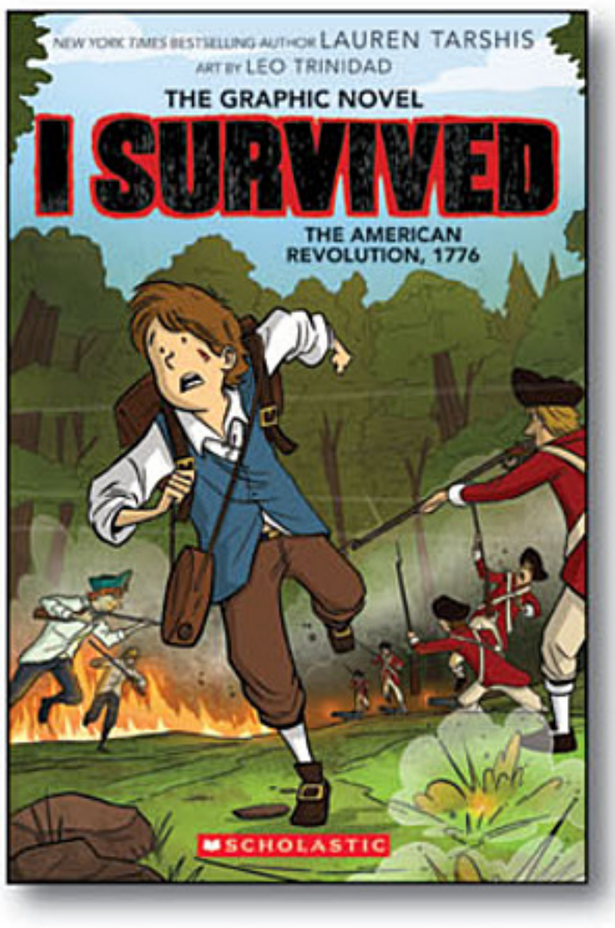












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I SURVIVED TRUE STORIES

REAL KIDS. REAL DISASTERS.

I SURVIVED

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, HEROES ARE MADE.

A BATTLE THAT CHANGES THE COURSE OF THE WAR . . .

PAUL COLBERT'S FRENCH VILLAGE HAS BEEN UNDER NAZI CONTROL FOR YEARS. HIS JEWISH BEST FRIEND HAS DISAPPEARED. FOOD IS SCARCE. AND THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING PAUL CAN DO TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.

THEN PAUL FINDS AN AMERICAN PARATROOPER STUCK IN A TREE. WHEN PAUL HELPS THE SOLDIER, HE DISCOVERS A SECRET RESISTANCE MOVEMENT—AND HE LEARNS THE ALLIES HAVE A PLAN TO CRUSH THE NAZIS. BUT FIRST, THE RESISTANCE NEEDS PAUL'S HELP.

THIS IS PAUL'S CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SOON HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF THE LARGEST INVASION IN HISTORY. CAN HE DO HIS PART TO TURN HORROR INTO HOPE?

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